



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 11:30 AM
PRESENTATION AND VOTE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
please see announcement on outside cover & 'And Finally' (pg. 10)

HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 57, No. 7

August 2014

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Inserts:

- August Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

The deadline for the September newsletter is **Sunday, August 17.**

Office Hours

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

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Pride in the Park

Earl Laman

Under sunny to threatening skies, under a loaned canopy, and under the banner of Hope Church, seventeen members took PRIDE in establishing our booth for equality.

It was Saturday, June 28, at Centennial Park in Holland. We were not alone. Holland is Ready was there, PFLAG, four other area churches, food booths (from Thai to yogurt), Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Herman Miller, and forty more companies and agencies supporting the second outdoor PRIDE Festival - double the previous year's number of booths!

In addition to the greater number of booths, there was also an increase in the number of people who attended the event. People looked, searched, talked, asked, shared, congregated, listened to hours of live music, met friends, picked up information and mementos, or moved cautiously about.

People came for various purposes, needs, struggles, desiring to be affirming, wanting

"I was so grateful and happy to be part of this loving and compassionate community experience. For me this is what being a Christian means - standing with, educating and ultimately making a better world through action." -Mary Linda Graham



Volunteers shared the spirit of Hope Church at the Holland Area Pride Festival on June 28.

to understand, hoping for positiveness, seeking assurances, declaring God's Love and Presence through their own love and presence.

Most came for very personal motives- or with very personal fears and hurts. For example, my niece attended the event with her partner.

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Pride in the Park

continued from page 1

My niece, who has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Western Theological Seminary, was dismissed from her eight years of pastoral work at a California church after she “came out.” She brought with her to the Festival her 13 year-old niece, my grandniece, who is currently facing the reality that she is lesbian, and is deeply troubled, despairing. I am grateful that my grandniece could witness a cordial, aware, accepting and affirming community blooming in the Park.

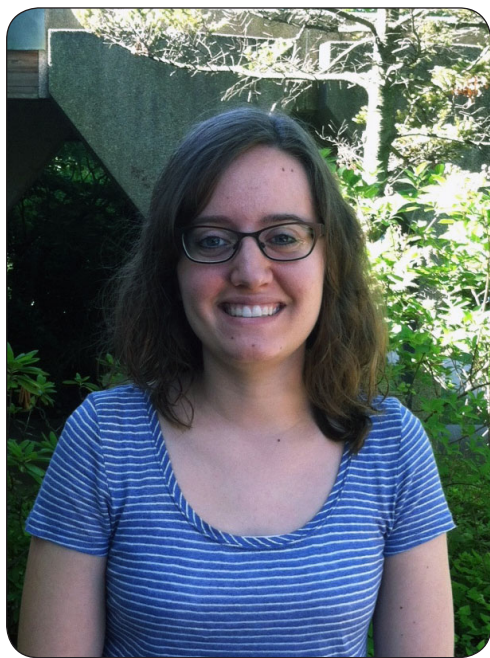
A variety of people came; inquiring people, celebrating people, joyous

people, affirming people, unsure people, people seeking spiritual kinship. Other people were there too. A few on the corner carrying judgment-heavy signs, or at the booths pressing their Biblical literalisms and conversing disparaging “choices”.

Hope Church was there, through our representatives, our handout materials, our ready and steady stance for “totally unconditional love includes all people.” We were there sharing the spirit of Hope Church and the love of God with *all* of God’s children.



Welcome, Megan Arevalo



Greetings everyone,

My name is Megan Arevalo, and I couldn’t be more excited to have recently joined Hope Church as the Church Administrator! I am eager to serve the congregation and community of Hope Church and help further its ministry.

A little about myself: I grew up in the Cutlerville area of Grand Rapids, and graduated from Calvin College in 2012 with a degree in Psychology and Religion. I enjoy building relationships with people, exploring theology, and getting lost in a good book.

Before coming to Hope Church, I

served as Administrative Assistant on the Program Excellence team for World Renew--the development, disaster response, and justice arm of the Christian Reformed Church.

My husband, Joe and I will be moving to downtown Holland at the end of July, and we are so excited to live here and become part of this vibrant community. You may see Joe around town, as he is an appraiser for the City of Holland. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting some of you already, and I look forward to meeting more of you as we serve together.

Blessings,
Megan Arevalo

Hope Church Staffing Change

A Note from Angie Griffore, Communications Coordinator

More changes are ahead in the Hope Church office - I will soon be moving into a full-time position at Herman Miller in the role I have been at part-time since the end of April. My last day at Hope Church will be Thursday, July 31. Forgive me for the cliché, but

this truly is bittersweet! I am looking forward to this new opportunity, but am sad to be leaving my work at Hope Church, and will especially miss working with all of the wonderful people I have met during my time here. After the 31st, you will no longer

see me in the office, but you will still see me around! My fiancé, Nate, and I intend to continue connecting with the Hope Church community. Thank you to everyone for making Hope Church such a great place to work, grow, and serve!

Hope Church in the Community

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

David Myers, Community Ministry Member



CENTER FOR
WOMEN IN
TRANSITION

Founded in 1977, the Center for Women in Transition (CWIT) provides vital services to women, men and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Each year, CWIT serves more than 3,000 individuals across Ottawa and Allegan counties, with offices in Grand Haven,

Holland and Allegan.

CWIT services include emergency shelter, support groups, legal advocacy, transitional housing, trauma therapy and more. Its trained advocates provide all services free and in confidence. CWIT also engages with our local community via violence prevention and education programs, including domestic violence in the workplace trainings, K-12 school

dating violence prevention, Girls on the Run, and faith community outreach.

Hope Church has supported CWIT through its benevolence budget and via members Jane Dickie, Les and Carla Beach, Gordon Wiersma, Bette Williams and Angie Griffore who have all been active in leadership or service to CWIT. For more information visit www.cwitmi.org.

Washington School Neighbors Update

Andrew Spidahl & Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas, Neighborhood Connectors

Meet Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas

In the June/July newsletter, Andrew mentioned that Washington School Neighbors was seeking another Neighborhood Connector. Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas came on in that role in late June. Janelle is an ordained RCA minister, 2001 graduate of Western Theological Seminary (WTS), and has served congregations and communities in Vancouver, BC

and Holland, MI; and was a Bible teacher in Chiapas, Mexico. Janelle looks forward to increasing the contacts and relationships with the Spanish-speaking population in the neighborhood. Janelle is married to Angel Lopez, a 2014 grad of WTS, and they have two daughters. If you see them in the office or around the church, please say "hello!"



Neighbors are Growing Together

Nestled in a lush, green, vacant lot near 10th Street and Pine, something inspiring is growing! Neighbors have been gathering to build and



plant a community garden. Folks have signed up to commit to tend their own portion and hopefully get to know the other participants. In return they get to take home or share all of the lovely, organic produce from their own plot however they wish. One gardener, when chatting about day-to-day life commented, "You wanna know something good happening with me? This!"

All of the garden beds are currently claimed, but we would love to have

you stop by and see how the gardens are growing, and maybe 'grow' a few new acquaintances of your own!

The garden project is coordinated by Neighborhood Connectors, Andrew Spidahl and Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas. Grant funding for the project was given by the Padnos Company and the City of Holland. Washington School Neighbors heartily thanks Hope Church for providing the space for the garden and relationships to flourish.

Adult Education to Present General Synod 2014 Review

Christian Education Ministry

General Synod is an annual meeting of representatives from congregations of the Reformed Church in America to make decisions that affect the entire denomination. The 208th General Synod met on the campus of Central College in Pella, IA, June 12–17. Among those participating at synod were Tom Boogaart, Terry DeYoung,

Jeff Japinga, Leanne VanDyk, and Cindi Veldheer DeYoung.

On Sunday, August 10 from about 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Terry, Jeff, and Cindi will report on their experiences at and reflections upon General Synod. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary. Attending

this panel discussion is one of the best ways to learn about our denomination.



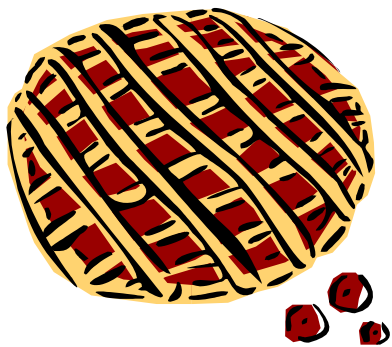
Haiti Mission Trip Postponed

Several Hope Church members were planning to travel to Haiti this coming October to visit and work with the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty (HFAP). Unfortunately, another visitor came to Haiti earlier this year. That visitor is called the chikungunya virus, carried and spread by mosquitoes. The word chikungunya is from an African dialect and it means "that which bends up" which is a literal description of what can happen to people who catch the virus. It is very rarely fatal in and

of itself but can be in interaction with other pre-existing conditions. The most common symptoms are high fever, joint pain, headaches, and muscle pain -- pain which can cause a person to "bend up." Sometimes the symptoms last only a day or two, but for others they can last for several months. At this time there is no vaccine nor any specific cure, only relief from the symptoms via rest and typical painkillers.

After much prayer and thought, most of the potential mission trip members, who are in groups for whom the risk of the more severe reactions is highest, made the difficult decision that it was not worth the risk of exposing themselves to this virus at this time. Interest remains strong in supporting the work of HFAP so it is hoped that after this initial outbreak the risk of exposure will decrease and another trip can be scheduled at a future time.

Blueberry Pie Sales to Again Support Haiti Foundation Against Poverty



Hope Church will again be having the (almost) annual blueberry pie sale in support of a mission program. Even though the planned mission trip has been postponed (please see the article above) the moneys raised this year will again go to support the work of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty (HFAP). HFAP was founded by Mallery Thurlow Neptune, a native of

Midland, Michigan. The foundation runs an orphanage in Haiti called Hope House, an elementary school which also includes a health clinic, and a women's program called Gift of Hope. The Gift of Hopes program trains and employs Haitian women so they can earn the money needed to care for themselves and their children. Earlier this summer, HFAP celebrated the grand opening of the Gift of Hope Boutique in which these women were able to sell products made from several sewing machines purchased with funds raised through last year's pie sales. More information is available on their website, haitipoverty.org.

The pies will be assembled Friday evening, August 22, and Saturday

morning, August 23. Frozen pies will be available for pick-up on Sunday, August 23. Cost of the pies will again be \$12.00. There will be a Blueberry Pie Project table in the Gathering Area on Sundays, August 3, 10, and 17. Please stop by to order pies and to sign up to be a part of the crew making the pies. Experience is not necessary; there are clear directions and good teachers to guide you in whatever task you choose to do. You may also contact Ben Sikkink to either order pies or volunteer to help.

Buy early, buy often, and come get your hands full of pie dough or stained with blueberry juice, all in support of this worthy mission.

An Opportunity to Give the Gift of Life

Donita Robards, RN, Parish Nurse

Life is a gift. Those who are at risk of losing theirs through organ failure know that all too well. They are also aware of the obstacles of receiving the organs they so desperately need. Over 3,000 Michigan residents are on the waiting list to receive an organ transplant. Nationally, there are over 100,000. In Michigan, approximately 300 lives are saved every year through organ donation. Why not more?

There are a few misconceptions about organ donation. For many people, it is the concern that their own life will be taken too lightly if they are seriously hurt or ill, or you may think you are too young or old. The truth is, your life is just as precious as the person who is on the waiting list, and age is not necessarily a factor in determining who can be an organ donor. Additionally, it's a misguided belief that the process will be too complicated to deal with.

I want to share a personal story about organ donation. Several years ago, a

relative was in need of a lung. She had a genetic disorder. Some diseases are no respecter of persons, and this one didn't care that she had never smoked. After years of being on oxygen, she received the call. She had to be in Ann Arbor as soon as possible. Her bags were already packed, because she knew that when the call came she would have to be ready to go immediately. She received her new lung and another woman on the same floor received the other lung from this same person. My aunt received a gift; truly a gift of life.

At the time, I don't know if I realized the significance of this offering. My focus was not on the donor, but on my aunt. And even though I had witnessed this miracle, I still did not sign up to be an organ donor myself. I always felt that I was in too much of a hurry. I had other things to do. Maybe I didn't want to think about it. As I was researching for this article, I finally signed up. It wasn't hard, and it didn't take that long.



If you are interested in becoming an organ donor, you can sign up at the Secretary of State office. You can also sign up online at GiftOfLifeMichigan.org. To sign up, you will need a valid Michigan Driver's License or State Identification card. The only other information asked for is your name and your date of birth.

Organ donation is not going to be for everyone. You may have your own reasons for choosing not to sign up-- and that is okay. My goal here is not to pressure anyone into doing something they would not want to do, but to create awareness of the need.

Information taken from the Gift of Life Michigan website.

Go & Glow

Julia Brown, Seminary Intern



"The glory of God is the human person fully alive!" -Irenaeus

Part of being fully alive is being attentive to how we honor and love God with mind, soul and body. Go and Glow was launched by the Health Ministry in June to encourage us to get

moving together this summer. Have you set and begun working toward a summer fitness goal? If you have, way to go! Keep it up! If not, it is not too late to get started!

Goal cards are available in the church office and at the Go and Glow table in the gathering area. If you meet your goal you can turn in your card to the office or Go and Glow table to be entered in 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. It will be fun to see the many ways people are taking up the challenge.

Ways to Get Moving Together

- *Fit-to-Serve:* this walking and talking group meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the gathering area.
- *Food Groups:* meets on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. (check bulletin for location). Come and explore various food items found at the local farmer's market.

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.

Young Adult (Twenty-Thirty) Ministry: The Crossroads

Andrew Spidahl, Pastoral Resident

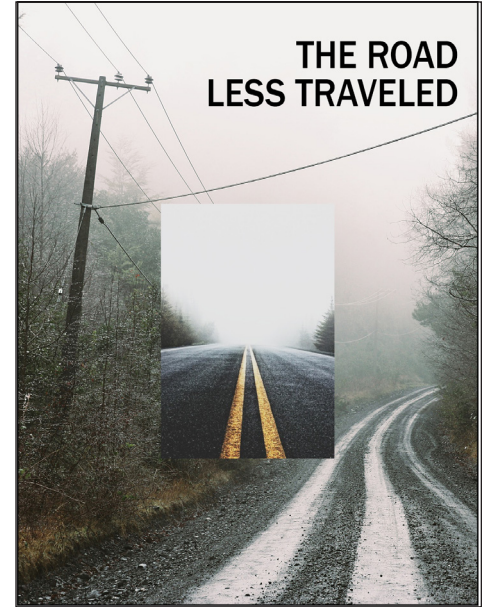
Different periods of life lend themselves to different metaphors. A mentor of mine described his twenties as a vast plain of possibility, where he felt raw to the world. This image balances what many consider to be an exciting time--the possibilities of new adulthood--with the reminder that open possibility can be painful and lonely. Often at this age, people find themselves at the crossroads of important decisions. At Hope Church, the Young Adult Ministry exists to provide an honest space of deep engagement with one another and offer provisions for this both wonderful and painful time of life, from age 18-30.

In the last couple years, this ministry has gone through some changes. Two years ago we introduced "The Road Less Traveled" series--life stories from members of our congregation and community around a shared meal--which sought to reach out to Hope College students. In the

next year, we decided that we would spend less time promoting it at Hope College and focus on members of our congregation in this age demographic. We had several gatherings throughout the course of the year that kept the life-story theme, but moved into the sanctuary for worship.

The Road Less Traveled has been rich and good, and we hope to continue it in some way for this coming year, but many members of the task force are also transitioning. We are grateful for the energy and input of Jane Dickie, Wendy Rebhan, Gretchen Schoon-Tanis, Bob Jerow, Reed Jerow, Paige Convis, and Jill Russell to this task force. Some will continue on, some will step back.

As a task force, we are now open to the plain of possibility--and I look forward to what it might bring. If, as you read this, you are mysteriously nudged or drawn toward the college



and twenty-thirty age group, talk to Andrew Spidahl. There may be a wonderful way in which you can plug in, whether in the task force or through other means of support. Know that we are looking for a rich community of diversity and wisdom to surround and speak hope to the road ahead.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Community Ministry.

Team "Know Hope" Wraps Up Stellar Season



The Hope Church co-ed softball team recently wrapped up one of their best seasons in recent years. As of the printing of this newsletter, there was one game yet to be played. Thank you to all who came out to play and enjoy the fellowship of the game. And a big thank you to all who came out to cheer the team on. The season is surely deserving of a rousing team cheer: Know Hope, Know Hope!

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

High Hopes

By the time you read this newsletter, High Hopes will have completed a mission trip to Detroit. Look for more news of our trip in the September newsletter and mark your calendar for a presentation during Pizza Sunday on September 28.

Fish Club

On Wednesday, June 11, ten youth and seven sponsors left the parking lot of Hope Church for West Virginia and

the Appalachian Trail. They hiked for four days and covered 42 miles in good weather with just a little rain. Along the way the group endured some aches and pains, administered balm to blisters, sang some songs, and enjoyed being in God's creation. Thank you, Hope Church congregation, for your warm send-off, prayers, and support for our group.

On the Sunday we returned, we had a surprise celebration for Larry Mulder

to celebrate the 25th year that Larry has led a group of middle schoolers on the trail. We celebrated with cake and punch, (the punch was made with Tang, something we enjoy on the trail), a skit was performed, gifts were given, and words of love and appreciation were heard. We hope that what Larry started 25 years ago will continue to be an honored tradition for the Hope Church youth for many more years to come. Thank you Larry!



Fish Club youth and sponsors hiked over 42 miles on the Appalachian Trail in June. Go to the Hope Church website or Facebook page to see more pictures from their adventure.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Summer Church School

During the month of August, we are continuing our celebration of God's creation. Through the next few weeks we will also be learning how to be good stewards of the earth and be reminded of ways we can fulfill our role as caregivers to all of God's creation. As we learn about our wonderful world, we will also be spending time in joyful praise. The young children

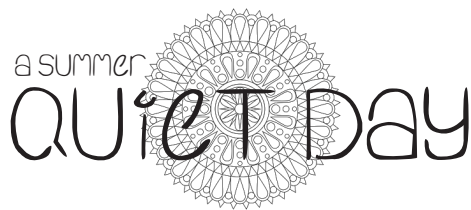
love to sing, dance and play along to the rhythm of old and new songs of praise. Through role-playing, songs, storytelling, discussion, crafts and games, the children enjoy learning together.

Kick off Sunday is September 7th

The fall schedule begins with church school for Children – 3 years through 5th grade at 9:45 a.m. in Room 204.

We look forward to exploring the stories of the Old Testament, some familiar and many that may be new. The children will leave the 11:00 a.m. service to worship in the Children in Worship centers. More detailed information will be sent to you later this month. We are excited to grow in faith together!

Events and Announcements



Summer Quiet Day - Aug. 9

Attend a Summer Quiet day on Saturday, August 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Hope Church. Look for more details in the bulletin and online at HopeChurchRCA.org.

Blood Drive - Aug. 10

The next blood drive will be held at Hope Church on Sunday, August 10 in Commons I from 8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. This event is sponsored by First United Methodist Church and Hope Church. Our goal is to collect at least 40 units of blood. Walk-ins are welcome. All volunteer positions are already filled. Any questions can be directed to Dick Noordijk. See you at the blood drive.

Potluck in the Park - Aug. 10

Everyone is welcome at the 16th annual Potluck in the Park of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) on Sunday, August 10 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m at Dunton Park (Howard Ave off Douglas/Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland). Bring a dish to share from your cultural background; ACEH provides beverages and table service. Invite your family, neighbors, friends, and people who are new to the community; and come enjoy music, children’s activities, games, fun, fellowship-and great food. If you can pitch in with set up, during the event, or with clean-up, please contact the Potluck Chair, Bobbie Brown, at BobbieB3371@sbcglobal.net or call her at (616) 392-1926.

Teusink’s Farm Picnic - Aug. 15

The Fellowship Ministry is hosting a summer picnic on Friday, August 15 at 6 p.m. Bring your own picnic supper and meet at Teusink’s Farm. The picnic area is no charge and will be available to Hope Church members and friends for food and fellowship. Watermelon will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry. From 6-9 p.m. it is Family Fun Night at the farm. You can take part in a variety of activities (for a small fee) or just enjoy visiting together at the picnic area. No reservations necessary. Come and enjoy a summer evening at the farm!

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 explore how these dynamics of race and privilege might operate within the ministry of Hope Church.

Flowers for Worship

Celebrate a special occasion in your family, or give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one by signing up in the Gathering Area on the flower calendar, or call Joyce Teusink. There are spaces available throughout the fall. We have florists who assist us for a fee, or you can deliver your own arrangement.

August Birthdays

02	John DeWeert Care Group: 7
03	Char Alexander Care Group: 7
24	Loren Howard Care Group: 5
25	Peg Danhof Care Group: 2
28	Cecil Williams Care Group: 3
31	Jean DeWeert Care Group: 7

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

Events and Announcements continued

Small Group Opportunity

Hello Hope Church family! Greetings from Stanton, New Jersey! I hope summer is beautiful and relaxing! However, it is time to start thinking about the fall, at least a little bit. I wanted to connect with those of you who were interested in being a part of a small group focusing on community and service--a continuation of what I started last semester. We are going to meet for a small group kick-off in September. Please look for a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area to indicate your interest in being involved and to

receive emails about our first meeting. I look forward to being with you all again soon!

grace+peace, *Paige Convis*

Labor Day Holiday Notice

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1, for the Labor Day Holiday. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

Kick Off Sunday - Sept. 7

The Hope Church Fall schedule begins Sunday, September 7. After the 11 a.m. service (note change from

summer time), we will gather for our annual Kick Off Church Picnic in the courtyard and 11th street lawn. Watch for details in the September newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

Thanks Yous

Many thanks for all the expressions of care during these weeks following my recent heart attack. The support of my Hope Church family has been a great source of encouragement.

-Paul Smith

Dear Hope Church family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers, and messages of congratulations for our marriage! It was a wonderful thing to open each card

and read the affirming notes of support, encouragement, and happiness. We feel blessed to be part of the Hope Church family even though we live so far away and look forward to our next opportunity to visit Holland. Thank you for sharing in our celebration.

Love, *Emilie Smith & Amber Batson*

Dear Friends:

More than a month has passed since my move from Holland and I finally

feel somewhat adjusted to my new life. I also feel that the move has been the right one for me. However, there is much of Holland that I miss -- my friends, living at the Warm Friend, and most of all my church. Throughout all my years of membership at Hope, I have valued the warmth and fellowship of the congregation for which I am so grateful. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely, *Jane Park*

September, October & November Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet for the next three months:

September Greeters

07 Greg & Kim Doxstader
14 Bert & Anne Duinkerken
21 Jim Dumerauf & Deidre Johnston
28 Paul & Janet Elzinga

October Greeters

05 Todd & Ellen Engle
12 Sally Farabee & Lois Gaiowski
19 Francis & Janice Fike
26 John Flemming & Sue VerMeulen

November Greeters

02 Renie Geary & Betty Gordon
09 Michelle & Grant Gerig
16 Dave & Trish Gosselar
23 Linda Graham & Bruce Evans
30 Kristin Grey & David DeBlock

If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, you are invited to either switch with someone or find your own substitute. You can communicate this change by marking the change on the Greeters Schedule poster in the Gathering Area, or by calling the office and a staff member will mark the change for you.

and finally...

If you had asked me when I first came to Hope Church whether I thought that we needed a major building renovation, I would have said “absolutely not!” I had come from the East coast where congregations either had woefully small buildings with very little functional space or buildings that were falling down around their ears. My first impression of the Hope Church facilities was that we had a very large and functional space that would be the envy of many places I had served before. I still think that if we had to live with this building as is, we could and we can. In some ultimate sense, we could continue to be the church of Jesus Christ alive and active in the world without a building at all.

This whole line of thinking brings to mind a passage from Calvin’s Institutes about napkins where a person wonders whether it is appropriate to use linen for clothing or napkins when others clearly don’t have what they need in life; this leads to doubt about using hemp and ultimately about whether one needs a napkin at all. Calvin’s discussion is both relevant and nuanced and probably more than I could summarize for our purposes here. What I will say is this: when it comes to a decision about our building we are in the realm of “things indifferent” as Calvin spoke of it. We are not talking about the ultimate things of life. And as such, we need to keep the relative importance of this decision in perspective. If we become too attached to either this current building or some envisioned new building, we are moving into problematic territory. And when

it comes to questions of “things indifferent,” we have freedom before God to make use of the resources we have for the purposes of God. If we are convinced that the use of our resources for a new building will serve the purposes of God, then we are free to move forward “with no scruple of conscience, no trouble of mind.” If, however, we are moving forward so that we can “delight in lavish and ostentatious” architecture which “outstrips our neighbors in all sorts of elegance and for the purpose of flattering ourselves in opulence” then we have obviously taken a wrong turn. There is a multiplicity of ways we could use our resources in service of God’s purposes. No question. Our discernment has to do with whether this particular decision at this particular time will serve the purposes of God in this time and for future generations.

I’ve become convinced that we do need to move forward on a major building renovation and capital campaign project. Generations before us had the courage, commitment, and vision to provide the spaces we have today. The ministry we are engaged in is supported by the people of this place and the space itself. We want to be sure that the space we have and the space we leave to future generations supports rather than hinders ministry. It is becoming clear to me that we need to take a similar step of faith to address both the laundry list of issues in our building that do not serve our current ministry well and to position our congregation for ministry among the future generations.

“We want to be sure that the space we have and the space we leave to future generations supports rather than hinders ministry.”

Based on the congregational meeting on June 29th, it is clear that there is strong momentum to move forward on this project together. Many good questions and ideas continue to be raised, but the overall message received on June 29th was enthusiasm for a comprehensive renovation. The design brief presented in June is being used this very week (that I am writing) to guide the architects and the capital campaign exploratory team in evaluating what we can accomplish given our values and the financial framework of 2.5 million dollars we have placed on this project. You are invited to hear their report on August 24th. This is the moment of decision for us. You will hear the scope of the work we can accomplish with this building renovation. You will see a floor plan that sketches out how we envision accomplishing this work. And you will be asked to vote on whether to launch a capital campaign that would fund the development of detailed plans, and provide the capital needed for actually making those plans into a reality.

I know that some would prefer to see the detailed plans before deciding on the project. I have deep empathy for that desire. The consistory, however, has determined that we will know enough by August 24th to make a reasonable decision.

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The cost of the next phase of planning was extensive enough that we could not in good conscience spend that money without a firm decision in place that we would be moving forward toward construction. However, if we proceed, there will be feedback opportunities for the congregation on the design before construction begins.

We are eager for all voices to be engaged in the discussion and decision on August 24th, so please make every effort to be present for that congregational meeting. I am excited by the possibilities and opportunity that is before us. And I am also clear that the Spirit will continue working in and among this

place whether we move forward on this capital campaign or not. I know that some leadership gurus would coach me to focus only on making the case that this is an urgent need that must be addressed now. I certainly do feel the urgency every time I watch a new family struggle to find their way to the nursery, or hear that a long time member is giving up on small group bible studies because they simply cannot hear well in the spaces we have available for gathering. I feel the urgency when our current facility places worship and education and fellowship at odds on a regular basis, when our youth ministry functions without a real home, and when our heating and cooling system keeps breaking down and takes way too

much of our budget to operate. Every time I experience the restrictions of space impinging on our hospitality, our efforts to connect to one another in support of our growing faith, or limiting what we can provide to our community, I sense the need to make these changes now for our current ministry and for the future. But (and here's where some leadership gurus will cringe) I also know that the world will not end if we don't. I encourage all of us to feel the freedom found in that seeming contradiction. I do. And I trust that in that freedom the Spirit will guide Hope Church in discerning a faithful decision on August 24th.

Peace,
Pastor Jill

Join the Kids Hope Team



If you can spare one hour per week to mentor one child during the school day,
we need you!

If you are willing to pray weekly for one mentor and one student,
we need you!



Mentors, Substitute Mentors, and Prayer Partners are needed to complete the Hope Church Kids Hope 2014-2015 Team. Our Kids Hope Partner School is Vanderbilt Charter Academy, 75% of whose student body is eligible for free and reduced lunch. In 2013-2014, we mentored and prayed for 16 at-risk students. Our prayer is that with your help, we can work with even more in 2014-2015. Anyone 16 years or older is welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Anne Duinkerken or Barbara Joldersma.

Hope Church
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Hope Church News

August 2014



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 11:30 AM PRESENTATION AND VOTE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Please plan to attend this important meeting in the life of Hope Church as we come to a decision point about renovations to our facility and a capital campaign to support that work. Following 10:00 a.m. worship and Pizza Sunday on Sunday, August 24, a presentation on the scope of work for renovations will be presented by the Capital Campaign Exploratory Team and the Elevate Studio architects, including a floor plan for the proposed renovations. A plan for a capital campaign will be proposed along with a schedule for the campaign, and details on the process for final design and construction will be presented.

Following the presentation and discussion, the congregation will vote on whether to proceed with the proposed renovations and capital campaign.

Your presence is requested and your input needed, so please mark your calendar.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 11:30 AM PRESENTATION AND VOTE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

At Home With the Word

Daily Bible Readings from the Revised
Common Lectionary

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

August 4 - 10

Monday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 26:1-15
Wednesday	Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35
Thursday	1 Kings 18:1-16
Friday	1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40
Saturday	1 Kings 18:41-46
Sunday	1 Kings 19:9-18

August 11 - 17

Monday	Psalms 18:1-19
Tuesday	Romans 9:14-29
Wednesday	Matthew 8:23-27
Thursday	Isaiah 45:20-25
Friday	Acts 15:1-21
Saturday	Matthew 14:34-36
Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28

August 18 - 24

Monday	Acts 15:1-21
Tuesday	Isaiah 43:1-13
Wednesday	Isaiah 66:18-23
Thursday	Psalms 138
Friday	2 Corinthians 10:12-18
Saturday	Matthew 16:5-12
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20

August 25 - 31

Monday	1 Samuel 1:3-13
Tuesday	Deut. 32:18-20, 28-39
Wednesday	Matthew 26:6-13
Thursday	Jeremiah 14:13-18
Friday	Psalms 26:1-8
Saturday	Matthew 8:14-17
Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28

Restorative Circle Facilitator List



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

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