



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 57, No. 9

October 2014

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Inserts:

- *October Calendar*
- *Lectionary*
- *Restorative Circles Facilitator List*

The deadline for the November newsletter is **Wednesday, Oct. 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



WEDNESDAY EVENING FALL SERIES

Wednesdays in October beginning October 1 ~ 6:45-8:30pm - dessert provided

There will be two options to participate in:

- A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming the Faith by Brian McLaren: A Book Study with Pastors Gordon Wiersma and Jill Russell. In this book, McLaren explores what a Christian faith unafraid of questions can look like. What emerges in this book is a refreshing vision of Christianity that takes seriously the scriptures we love and the questions we bring. The end result is a compelling call to live out

a faith that is relevant to our ever-changing world. Books will be available for purchase (\$10) starting September 21 in the Gathering Area. **Look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area!** A sign-up for transportation and for childcare will also be provided.

- Alternative Worship Planning Group with Andrew Spidahl: Anyone is welcome to be a part of planning for a special series of 9:30am worship services during Advent.

ADULT EDUCATION

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

October 5-19

Outreach and Hospitality Ministry: Disabilities Awareness

October 5 Harold S. Gazan, past Director of Child & Family Services of the Michigan Department of Social Services will present a historical overview of the care of developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons in the state and nation.

October 12 James K. Haveman, Michigan Department of Community Health, and Jessica Tomberlin, of Adult Services of Ottawa County's Department of

Human Services will focus on the resources which are available state and county-wide for developmentally disabled persons or families with a developmentally disabled child.

October 19 Thomas Vreeman, CEO of Kandu Industry, and Jack Kooyman, Holland Deacons Conference, will highlight community resources which are available for developmentally disabled persons or families with a developmentally disabled child.

October 26: Healing Prayer Service in the sanctuary ~ 10:00 a.m.

Welcome, Beth Jarvis



Hello everyone! My name is Beth Jarvis and it is with great joy and excitement with which I tackle my new role as Youth Ministry Director. I have already started connecting faces

with names with some of the teens and I cannot wait to connect minds and hearts to those smiling faces.

A little about my background: I have lived all over the world, but I was born in Memphis, TN in the same room as Lisa Marie Presley, my one and only connection to fame. My parents were medical missionaries for a time in Kenya, before living in Fremont, Michigan, Philadelphia; and Birmingham, Alabama. I started Hope College in 1991 and I have lived in Holland ever since.

I have two kids, Josiah (17) and Natalie (15), who are students at Black River High School. While I studied theatre and music at Hope, the bulk of my past career was spent in sales (those of

you who are runners might remember seeing me at Gazelle Sports, where I was General Manager about 10 years ago). While I have been involved with music and youth ministry for much of my adult life, I sensed God was calling me to more formalized vocational ministry three years ago; I have just started my third year at Western Theological Seminary.

I look forward to getting to know more of you soon!

Blessings,
Beth

You can reach Beth at her new email address: bjarvis@hopechurchrca.org.

Meet Glorie Orozco



Greetings everyone,

My name is Glorie Orozco I am very excited to be part of Hope Church!

My husband and I have three children: Francisco, Omar, and Gaby. I enjoy summer days at the beach and winter nights watching movies with my family!

I have worked in manufacturing for most of my adult life. I am Thompson MTEC Certified in Administration. I am now at the moment of my life

where I have always wanted to be. I would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome.

If anyone has questions for me or about me, feel free to approach me because that is what I am here for. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and also the task of learning all the new names and faces!

-Glorie Orozco

You can reach Glorie at her new email address: gorozco@hopechurchrca.org.

Office Staff Reconfiguration

The Hope Church Office has gone through a recent reconfiguration! Megan Arevalo, church administrator, will now also be responsible for many of the old communication coordinator position's responsibilities, such as the newsletter, website/facebook, and

advertising. Glorie Orozco, our new administrative assistant, will assist Megan in her duties, and take on the role of receptionist in the office. Glorie will also be responsible for the weekly bulletin. Glorie and Megan are still fine-tuning each of their specific

duties, but we will keep you posted on any changes! Thank you all very much for being patient with the new office staff in this time of transition.

New Hymnals

In the last decade, the volume of hymn and worship song writing has been at its highest level. It is our mission to continue to include and infuse our worship with the best available worship music for our congregation.

As our current hymnal is nearly 20 years old (which is also the average lifespan of a hymnal), we introduced the green songbook "SING! A New Creation" to our 11 a.m. worship last fall to offer a broader selection of congregational song. Many thanks to Pillar Church, Holland, who was in process of purging songbooks and made it possible for us to introduce and experiment with the music of the songbooks.

Hymnal creation committees have a large task of evaluating the existing songs and new music as well as naming what are the future needs of

their congregation or denomination. As this process evolves over a 5-10 year span, the content and market determination is developed from nearly 10,000 entries. In general terms, nearly 30% of existing hymns are retained with the balance consisting of new hymns firmly tested in other music editions and newly composed hymns.

The hymnals that are emerging are "Glory to God", the Presbyterian Hymnal Project, and "Lift Up Your Hearts", the combined effort of the CRC and RCA. The goal of the "Glory to God" project was to produce a collection of songs for the church, experiencing a diversity of liturgical practices and in recognition that many members have not had a lifelong formation by Scripture and basic Christian doctrine. Lift Up Your Hearts was developed to give a

common voice to CRC/RCA worship for the 21st Century. It includes music ranging from traditional hymns to contemporary worship music and music of the global church. Each hymnal contains over 900 hymns and worship songs.

The WPS ministry, music staff and pastors have studied the two hymnal options and recommended to purchase both. In our study of the two hymnals, only 234 songs were common to both hymnals thus offering over 1200 additional songs for our worship.

Approved by WPS ministry and consistory, we plan to introduce one hymnal in October and the next one in February. This plan also includes adapting the hymnbook holders in each pew so both hymnals and the Bible will be well-organized.

Washington School Neighbors Update

Andrew Spidahl & Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas, Neighborhood Connectors

10th St. Gardens - We are happy to have growing garden boxes



and harvested produce in the neighborhood, and want to extend a special thanks to Hope Church and Third Reformed Church for their space and volunteers to make this happen for this past growing season. As a result, neighbors who would have otherwise had very little occasion to meet have found

themselves sharing a meal at the garden space this summer!

Ice Cream Giveaways - Started as a follow-up to National Night Out, this fun event continued when neighbors volunteered to host their own, closer to their homes.



Hudsonville Ice Cream donates the ice cream that gets mixed when machines start a new flavor. So, with a stack of cones, a few flyers, and some enthusiastic children spreading the word, WSN has found a sweet new past time.

Neighborhood Improvements -

If you noticed paint and cones on Van Raalte close to Kollen Park marking potential "bump-outs" to change traffic patterns, then you're witnessing the fruit of neighborhood organizing and neighbors speaking up. Two years ago neighbors brought a proposal for safer pedestrian crossing to Kollen Park, and the City of Holland has responded. Offer your encouragement or bring your questions to Joel Dye-- it makes a difference!



20/30 Ministry

One new notable development in the 20/30 ministry is our partnership with Grace Episcopal Church. We have connected with curate Christian Baron (like a pastoral resident) to design and try a meal and worship service for college students and 20-30 year-olds. In some ways it will be similar to "The Road Less Traveled", but as we are sharing this endeavor, we will create a new name and use both venues. Two possibilities for a combined name (Grace + Hope) surfaced early -- "GR-OPE" and "GR-APE". Neither of these were quite what we were looking for, so we forge onward. Regardless of the name, we are looking forward to see what community might develop around this shared worship time.

Alternative Worship

Our initial meeting for the Alternative Worship Advent Planning Group was held mid September, and has moved us toward some shared values and ideas. This is a new and exciting opportunity. As one member said, "It's pretty rare to have a blank slate to plan a worship service!" We are curious and expectant. Please continue to pray with us, and we continue to welcome any who might wish to join in the planning. Look for meetings in conjunction with the October Wednesday series.

Children in Vietnam with HIV/AIDS: Why I Run



Dear Friends,

On October 19, my daughter Elyse and I will run a ½ marathon in Grand Rapids (What am I thinking? 13.1 miles? I'm 61 years old!). Then on November 15, my daughter Jenny and I will run a ½ marathon in Tampa (I must be really out of my mind!) But, we are running to support a project that we have been involved with since 2007 in support of Children in Vietnam with HIV/AIDS.

There are thousands of children in Vietnam who were born with HIV

and are left orphaned as their parents die from AIDS. From the beginning of their lives, and through no fault of their own, they are left in a very difficult position. Being an orphan is hard enough by any measure. Being an orphan infected with HIV presents many additional challenges.

My wife, Kay Hubbard, and I started on this journey in 2007 when we worked with 10 children with HIV, in Ho Chi Minh City. Today, we support 75 children in three provinces and work with an amazing team of 25 volunteers.

I made a website where you can learn more about the situation of children with HIV/AIDS and the very cool project we are working on to support these kids. You can also learn more about my January 2014 visit to Vietnam in support of this project. Please check it out at:

<http://danfishervn.wordpress.com/>

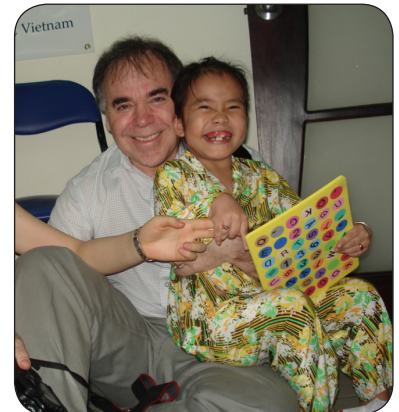
I am personally inspired by the excitement for life in the eyes of

these children given their difficult situation, by the huge responsibilities of raising a child with HIV provided by their caretakers, and the passion and resourcefulness of the volunteers as they work to make the world a better place.

We'd like to invite you to consider sponsoring me in the ½ marathon and being a part this adventure.

Peace to all,

Dan Fisher



The Deacons' Table at Pizza Sunday in October will feature this project.

Child/Youth Protection Policy Review and Signing

Christian Education Ministry

All adults who work with the youth and children of Hope Church are required to be acquainted with the Child/Youth Protection Policy and sign a form to that effect. We are offering a couple of times for those adults to meet and sign those documents and for any questions or concerns to be addressed. Please come on either Sunday, October 19 or 26 at 12:15 to Room 106 to complete a Personal

Information Form. If you would like to review the policy before that time, there are copies available in the office. If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn Van Heest. Thanks for your cooperation and we are very appreciative of these adults willingness to serve leading the children and youth of Hope Church.

Caring for Creation

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator

Kudos to faith communities, places like Hope Church, where genuine caring takes place. Our caring is most obvious in tragedy—the auto collision, surgery, or house fire. When life hurts most, people of faith show up—with lasagna, a ride to the airport, or just a phone call.

Most acts of kindness are unsung; often people want it that way, pain needs to be private; not alone, but private. Sometimes caring is public; especially if fundraising is involved. Local TV stations love these stories. You've all seen them—the spaghetti supper, car wash, or brownie sale. Again, I say kudos to the people who drop everything and work like crazy to make caring real.

Caring in this way, however, runs up against barriers. First, caring is hard to sustain, over time emotions become exhausted and adrenaline runs out. Secondly, this is a singular form of response. We're meeting tragedy one event at a time without much capacity to impact larger problems. There simply isn't enough brownie mix in Holland.

The term "donor fatigue" has entered our lexicon. Constantly asking for money wears people down; they

begin to feel like there just isn't more to give. I'd like to suggest that fatigue results from misplaced perception. Our resources are not exhausted—misallocated, but not exhausted.

Consider three facts. First, the research which undergirds Holland's Community Energy Plan indicates that we spend \$125 million per year on fuels. Second, Holland has some of the least energy efficient housing in the Midwest. Serious home energy retrofits could save as much as 50% on utility bills. Third, the Department of Energy reports that the average American homeowner spends \$2,200 a year on utilities.

I know this is an ideal scenario, but play the numbers game with me. Suppose that each of Holland's 7,500 houses saved \$1,000 a year: \$7.5 million per year would be available for other purposes, all without fundraising or new taxes! Consider the potential for Hope Church: what budget problem?

The Bible says that we are to be as mild as doves and as wise as serpents. There's a way to do that!

Team "Know Hope" Wins Spirit of the League Award

Memories of Summer: As we move into the fall season, it's nice to take a moment and remember Co-ed Softball's fun summer season. Under the new leadership of Coach Andrew Spidahl and his assistants, Steve Johnson and Mike Israels, the Hope Church Co-ed Softball Team had a great season! They won several games thanks to some young blood on the team...(not that we aren't thankful for the tried and true oldtimers)...and we also have some new fans cheering us on! Thanks to everyone who made this season a success! We would also like to congratulate the team as once again our Hope Church Team has won

the "Spirit of the League Award!" You can view these special trophies in the library. Hope is just a "fun" team to play! Sweet summer dreams until next 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 Outreach and Hospitality Ministry

Dee Dee Piers

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry reaches out to Hope Church visitors and strives to foster a sense of warmth, openness and hospitality that will enrich the life of the church.

The ministry plans and coordinates the new member classes and confirmation activities, Sunday greeters, production of the Hope Church News and media coverage, staffs the Welcome Center, and hosts the Elders Meeting (luncheon) and New Member Reception.

The ministry promoted the commitment of Hope Church as a Room for All Congregation this past summer by coordinating the Hope Church exhibit at *Pride Festival 2014* in Centennial Park, and this year will support the LGBTQ students on Hope's campus by supplying snacks for their meetings.

The group also tends to disability needs and concerns in the congregation by reviewing and examining strategies for meeting needs and providing the congregation with information and tools for responding to church attendees with appropriate thoughtfulness, care, and sensitivity.

A new **20/30 Task Force** and a **Communication Task Force** both work under the umbrella of Outreach and Hospitality.

Over Labor Day weekend, the O&H ministry supported the **20/30 Task Force** by having a presence at the first "Gathering" at Dimnent Chapel. Along with other churches, Hope Church took part in a campus ministry initiative to connect Hope students to area churches.

We will also support the **Fellowship**

Ministry this year by sponsoring a Pizza Sunday.

Upcoming Events:

In October, the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry will support the **Adult Education Ministry** by sponsoring a series of classes dealing with disabilities. See page 1 for details about this important series.

New Member Luncheon & Meeting with Elders: November 2

New Member Reception: November 16

We would love to have you join us! Our next meeting is Monday, October 20, at 4:00, in the church library.

Ministry members are Trish Gosselar, Audrienne Hill, Michael Kolk, Dee Dee Piers, Jill Russell, Judy Vander Wilt and Jocelyn Van Heest.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Fellowship Ministry.

Capital Campaign Meeting Follow-Up: Supporting Ministry Partners

On Sept. 21st when the congregation voted to support the Consistory in authorizing a Capital Campaign, this proposal included a 5% designation of funds raised to be shared with ministry partners for capital projects underway. The current thinking within consistory is to split our 5% designation between three

ministry partners, two local and one international: 4th-New Community RCA and Maple Ave Ministries RCA/CRC of Holland and the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty. The consistory will make a final determination about the recipients for this 5% designation at their meeting in November. If you would

like to share any feedback to the consistory or offer additional ideas for designations, please contact the church office by October 31st. You can email your comments to office@hopechurchrca.org or bring a note by the office.

Youth Ministry

Beth Jarvis, Youth Ministry Director

"What changes do you want to see happen with youth group?" I asked this question of the two teen representatives who were a part of the search committee during my interview. Expecting an answer like "attract more kids from other churches" or "more trips to Cedar Point", I was surprised by their thoughtful response. "We want deeper relationships." Wow. God, might I be as mature and vulnerable as these two teen sages sitting before me. As a mom of two teens, I know the constant tension of desiring a happiness for my kids that our world tells us is accessible through iPhone 6's and Top Thrill Dragster rides and the relational, life-giving message in the gospel that prioritizes community: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

One pursuit leads toward abundant life, the other towards emptiness and disappointment, if it is placed in the wrong order of priorities. We like things. Things can be great. However life comes from loving our God and then each other. Even our kids know this.

So in light of this Godly desire that our teens at Hope Church have, I want Fish Club and High Hopes to be a place where deeper relationship is the goal; whether we are laughing during a scavenger hunt or crying in the shared pain of another, let us strive towards deeper, more vulnerable relationships. First, joining with a God who pursues us with more G force than any coaster Cedar Point can offer and then with each other, as we learn to love each

other in the way Jesus loves the church. With our sponsorship teams, I will be prioritizing devotional and sharing time with our youth to ensure that youth group is a place where they can know and be known. I invite you to pray for God's formational work to be done among us this year, so that we might be ready for any roller coaster life might throw our way.



Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

When the children and their leaders leave the sanctuary their worship continues. They go to their worship centers and greet each other as the early Christians did, sing songs of praise and thanksgiving, hear God's stories, respond to the Word, thank God, share a feast and go in God's name with a special blessing. Each week the stories that the children are hearing are listed in the bulletin, and at different times this year some of their responses will be displayed on the bulletin board in the education wing. You will be able to observe the many different ways God's word is experienced by the children. Ask them about their worship and their response to God's word. You are always welcome to come to a worship center and experience it for yourself.

This is a great way to support your Prayer PALS!

Each child is also working on a poster about their faith including their favorite Bible story and verse. Look for these in the hallways so that you can make a connection with the young members of Hope Church and get to know them better.

THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN IN WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 5 EXCEPT FOR THE PRESCHOOL WORSHIP CENTER.

The children are encouraged to remain in worship for World Communion Sunday.

CHURCH SCHOOL

On the second Sunday of each month during the church school hour, we will be offering an opportunity for families to come together in any configuration to spend the class learning, sharing and growing together in their faith. On October 12, we will be learning how to incorporate Bible reading and studying into our lives. More information about the class will be given to the young families. Margaret Buckley and Susan Rhoades will be there to do the activities with the children whose parents are unable to participate. Make Christian Education a priority in your family's life.

Events and Announcements

New Member Class

A New Member class continues on **October 5 and 12** during the education hour at 9:40 am in the Garden Lounge. This class is a great orientation to Hope Church for those considering membership or simply wanting to learn more about our congregation. A meal and a meeting with the Board of Elders for those wishing to join Hope Church will occur on November 2 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Public reception will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on November 16. Please contact Pastor Jill Russell or the church office (392-7947) if you would like more information. Please know that attending the class only indicates your possible interest in joining our fellowship, not your actual decision to do so.

Circle 4 will meet on Wednesday, **Oct. 8** at 7:00 PM at Judi Boogaart's home. Lauren Heyboer will lead the lesson on Chapter One of our study book Slow Church. Members still needing a copy of the book should contact Judy Bos.

Coffee Time at Resthaven

The next Coffee Time will be held at **Resthaven-40th St on Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m.** Mark your calendar, and come for an hour. All are welcome!



Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on **Wednesday, October 15, at 1:00 PM** in the Commons. The gripping story by Reyna Grande of her life as a child left behind when her parents went to the United States, **THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US** will be discussed,

with Libby Hillegonds as leader. Visitors are most welcome.

Brim Brunch

Plan to enjoy Brim Brunch harvest stew, coleslaw, bread, and apple pie at our **October 23** meeting, at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$8. After the dinner, Paul Elzinga will speak and show wonderful photos of the De Zwaan windmill and its restoration. If you are not on the calling list and wish to attend, please call Marilyn Cook.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Community Ministry reminds you that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In your thoughts, prayers and actions:

- Mourn those who have died because of domestic violence
- Celebrate those who have survived
- Connect those who need help
- Support those who work to end violence

This designation by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

helps bring awareness to the issues faced by battered women and their children. Every home should be a safe home.

October Birthdays

07	Eleanor Hopkins Care Group: 6
20	Clarence Hopkins Care Group: 6
29	Elsie Howard Care Group: 5
31	Hank Telgenhof Care Group: 5

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

SNOWBIRDS!

Please call the church office at 392-7947 to let us know when you'll be leaving and what your temporary address will be so that you can continue receiving the Hope Church News and other church mailings.

Events and Announcements continued

Cleaning Up the Church Gardens



This task needs to be completed soon! If you or a group you belong to have “adopted” a section of the church gardens, we need you to clean up your plot for fall. City curbside pick-up (of leaves only) will be from October 5 to November 9. Please bring your own clippers, rakes, etc. If you love to rake leaves, please feel free to share that gift with Hope Church. If you are uncertain about what needs

trimming, please contact David VanHeest.

Pizza Sunday

The next pizza Sunday is **October 26**.

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance Professional Development Seminars

REDI Seminars are designed with the working professional in mind. These half-day seminars cover a range of sector-specific barriers and practical solutions for cultivating diversity and inclusion within the workplace. The cost to attend the seminar is only \$50 and includes seminar materials and a light breakfast. Each Seminar is from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and will be held at the Diversity Alliance Offices.

Education Seminar: October 30

Faith Seminar: November 20

Business Seminar: December 4

Health Seminar: December 11

Visit <http://www.ethnicdiversity.org/whatwedo/seminars> for detailed information about what each seminar will cover and to register.

Room for All Job Opening

Room for All, an organization whose mission is the welcome and full affirmation of LGBTQ people in the Reformed Church in America, is seeking applicants for its second staff person. The Community Coordinator position is full time and may be carried out from a home office. Applications will be accepted until October 15. To download the job description go to <http://www.roomforall.com/news/rfa-is-hiring>.



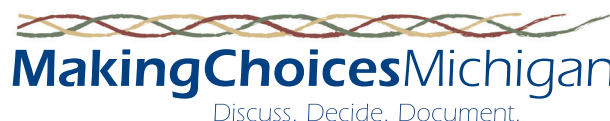
Advance Care Planning Presentation

The conversation is crucial and it's not a one-time conversation...

“DISCUSS. DECIDE. DOCUMENT.”

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014, 7-8:30 PM

Hope Church – Free Community Presentation – Open to all!



At this presentation, you'll learn what Advance Care Planning (ACP) is, how to have an ACP conversation with loved ones, steps to create an Advance Directive (AD), how to review an existing AD, and how to choose the right person (Patient Advocate) to speak for you when you cannot speak for yourself.

Carol Robinson DNP, RN, Community Coordinator of Making Choices Michigan, will lead this interactive presentation. Carol helps you think and talk about your values, beliefs and preferences for end of life care and for care anytime you might not be able to speak for yourself! And what if you've been asked to speak for someone else – are confident you know that person's wishes? Carol will also discuss the value of using a trained facilitator to guide conversations about wishes for future medical care.

Bonus: you will learn about the opportunity to schedule a FREE Advance Care Planning appointment with a trained facilitator.

Questions? Call Ellen Hale. Hope to see you there!

For more information regarding Making Choices Michigan, visit www.makingchoicesmi.org.

Hope Church in the Community

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

Judy Bultman, Community Ministry Member

This month the Community Ministry would like to tell you about the Special Education Ministry of Holland. This ministry provides Christian education and fellowship for adults with developmental disabilities. Every Thursday evening at 7pm, from September through April, students meet at Third Reformed Church for a Bible lesson, activity, singing and one-on-one tutoring about the lesson

with a volunteer. This past year there were 60 participants in the program. This ministry is sponsored by the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches of Holland and is at no cost to the participants. Hope Church contributes financially to this program every year.

How you can help this ministry:

- by encouraging students you

know to take advantage of this program.

- by providing refreshments for one of the Thursday evening meetings.
- through your prayers for this ministry and all those involved.

For donations to this program or for more information, contact Third Reformed Church.

ADD/ADHD

Donita Robards, RN, Parish Nurse



Words can be demeaning regardless of the intent behind them. "What's wrong with you? Why do you always walk around with your head in the clouds? How could you forget to pick up the milk? I told you three times." These are the kinds of things a person who has attention deficit disorder or ADD might hear on a regular basis. Teachers may say to their students "You could do so much better if you would just apply yourself." The trouble is that if an ADD sufferer could just apply themselves, they would.

ADD, also called ADHD, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, is a neurological syndrome that is diagnosed by the severity and duration of symptoms of impulsivity, distractibility and hyperactivity or excess of energy. There is no definitive test for ADD. Because ADD

is not just about hyperactivity, but can also be distractibility (daydreaming, forgetting), there are many adults today who have this syndrome, but have never been diagnosed. It is now known that children who have been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder will probably continue to have the same symptoms in adulthood.

A person who has attention deficit disorder struggles to manage their daily lives. It can be difficult if not impossible to organize their ideas to complete projects, to remember errands or appointments, to remain calm and in control at work or school. They may have trouble maintaining good relationships.

Children with attention deficit disorder often have poor self-esteem that extends into adulthood. This may lead to self-medicating with alcohol, marijuana or other drugs to focus or calm down. Sometimes the symptoms of ADD are disguised in adults by other problems such as depression or alcoholism, so the primary concern, ADD, is not diagnosed or noted by family members or professionals alike.

The first step in treatment is getting the diagnosis. Once a diagnosis is made, you can educate yourself about ADD. The second step is learning how to structure your life to improve productivity and reduce disorganization. A coach or psychotherapy can help to keep a person with ADD accountable to progressing toward this structured life. Medication is frequently ordered for people that find the other steps are not enough. Medication helps to regulate attention, impulse control, and mood. Most people require both behavioral changes and medication to reduce symptoms.

There are millions of Americans who have attention deficit disorder and do not know it. They can be difficult people to deal with. Without an understanding of what the problem is, it is easy to write them off as losers and underachievers. These people are our brothers, sisters, parents, siblings and children. Let's give them our patience and prayers. As 1 Peter 1: 22 says, "love one another deeply from the heart."

Thank Yous

*Dear members of Hope Church,
On behalf of Women's Service day, I'd like to extend our appreciation to your generous willingness to let us use your facility again this year for our event. Bringing people to Hope Church for our luncheon, fundraiser, and donation drive makes it easy for volunteers to engage fully in our*

event, connecting with other volunteers and learning about our cause to help women and children in the community. We are grateful for the ease your church provides logistically, and even more grateful to the members who help us year after year.

-Marcia Davis and the WSD planning team

and finally...

I'm writing this on the afternoon of Sunday, September 21. I had planned in this article to say a bit about the congregational meeting that was held earlier today following the 11am service as the congregation voted on moving forward with a capital campaign to support facility renovations. That meeting did happen, with a good discussion that expressed both support for and concern about the capital campaign, with the vote strongly supporting moving forward. But what also happened on September 21, was that word was received during the congregational meeting that Jonathan Brockmeier - a member of Hope Church, our sound technician, a father of 4 children under 18, a part of the Hope College staff - had passed away at his home that morning. The shock and grief of this loss became a part of what was shared at the congregational meeting, and as a community of faith we prayed and sang as we looked to God for comfort and hope.

The bringing together on this day of the consideration of plans that look toward the future of our congregation with the unexpected death of a member of our congregation put in sharp relief the tension that we live with each day as people of faith, seeking to be faithful in the broader scope of life while caring deeply about each child of God. As I reflect on this a few hours later, it draws me to focus on what else was happening at Hope Church today:

- People worshipped at 8:30am as communion was celebrated and visitors were welcomed, and at the same time our Pastoral Resident Andrew Spidahl met with someone who showed up needing assistance.
- The education hour focused on local hunger issues as the Community Ministry launched a healthy food drive for Community Action house, while an energetic GIFT class met and high school-ers gathered for church school.

- During church school and Children in Worship, children heard the stories of God as they were nurtured by faithful leaders.
- In the sanctuary service at 11am the voices of choir and people and pastors and Elders and Deacons and music and prayer and Word combined in worship, with a focus during Life of Hope on an art project in support of the Red Cord ministry that combats human trafficking.
- During the 11am worship our 6th-7th graders met, and this evening the middle school youth are starting a new Fish Club season under the leadership of Beth Jarvis.
- During the week ahead many people will be cared for and prayed for, groups will meet for learning and ministry, and the staff will serve with the support of this congregation.

Which leads me to say that it was an important day for Hope Church, not because we voted to move ahead with a capital campaign, but because as we do each Sunday and in our life as a congregation we did our best to be faithful to God in being a church. In worship and ministry and care, in gratitude and grief and joy, I am grateful to be part of such a place that lives out the good news of Jesus Christ. As plans unfold in the days ahead for a capital campaign that addresses the bigger picture, what continues as the lifeblood of Hope Church is how we seek to be faithful each day. As we do so, God's Spirit is and will continue to bring good fruit and blessing to us and to our neighbors near and far. So in the midst of this important day, I entrust it all, and all of us, to our faithful God. Thanks be to God.

Peace,
Gordon Wiersma



Hope Church News

October 2014



Prayers for a New Year

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

Please pray for our returning mentors, prayer partners, and Kids Hope Vanderbilt students as they resume their work together during the first week of October. It takes a little longer to begin working with students who are new to the program, but we hope to have all of our mentors working with students by the middle of October, and we ask for your prayers for them as well. We are very grateful for each mentor, prayer partner, and student, for without their commitment there would be no Hope Church Kids Hope.

We also ask you to pray that we will be able to provide a mentor

for each child referred to us, which is something we were unable to do during the 2013-14 school year. Our need for new mentors continues to be great. It's not too late to begin mentoring a child this year!

For further information about Kids Hope and opportunities to work with Hope Church's ministry with at-risk kids, please call Anne Duinkerken or Barb Joldersma.

