



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 58, No. 5

May 2015

In This Issue

New Members	2-3
Adult Education.....	4
Kids Hope	4
Staffing Updates	5
Ministry Highlight	6
Caring for Creation	6
Health Ministry.....	7
Lenten Art.....	8
Thank Yous	8
May Birthdays	8
Children's Ministry	9
Events &	
Announcements.....	9-10
Sabbatical Staffing.....	10
And Finally.....	11

Inserts:

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

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

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

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



Think Hope: May 16 Auction Supports Camp Sunshine

Community Ministry



Are you open to a purpose-filled evening of entertainment?

Mark your calendar for Think Hope, our annual fellowship and fundraising event: 5 p.m., Saturday, May 16th.

The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres and a chance to bid on the gifts and talents of the Hope Church community, to the benefit of Camp Sunshine—a summer camp experience for people with

developmental disabilities led by our own Cindy Terlouw. We'll then gather for dessert and our own fun-filled camp program, led by Deb Shakel.

Tickets are available in the Gathering Area and church office for \$12 per person.

Auction donations are also welcome. Think about your possibilities, which could include handcrafted or home-baked items, certificates for food or services (babysitting, landscaping, or whatever your talents are), artwork, holiday opportunities, etc. Anything goes!

To donate, pick up a form from the Gathering Area or church office, and deliver your item (or your form, if the item is perishable) between May 3 and May 10.

Puhhleease... do join us for this celebration of talents, fellowship, fun, and purpose!

Time for Pledges for Living Hope Capital Campaign

The current design scope and direction for the Living Hope renovations were presented at a congregational gathering on March 29. They are summarized—with pictures—on the project website, at LivingHopeRCA.wordpress.com and linked to from the Happenings page of HopeChurchRCA.org. If you don't have online access, contact the church office for a paper copy.

during May will help Consistory make decisions about scope at their June meeting, and the earlier your pledge is received, the better informed those decisions will be! If you need capital campaign materials or have questions about either the capital campaign or the building plans, contact the church office or Lois Maassen.

Pledges received from members and friends

Thanks for your prayerful discernment about support!

Hope Church Welcomes New Members

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on April 12 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Please take the time to welcome all these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

Constance VanderVelde



Connie Vander Velde joins by reaffirmation of faith. She is a Hope College graduate and returned to settle in Holland four years ago. Her great-grandfather helped build Hope Church, her grandfather was a missionary with the Reformed Church in South India, and her mother attended Hope Church with her family during the 1930's. She is the mother of four children and three step-children. Connie loves the arts, is a practicing water color artist, and strong supporter of the Holland Area Arts Council. Connie is sponsored by Marge DeBlaay.

*"If anyone is in Christ,
there is a new creation! God has
reconciled us to himself through
Christ and has given us the
ministry of reconciliation."
-II Corinthians 5:17-18*

John and Barbara Knoops



John and Barbara Knoops join by transfer from Highland Presbyterian Church in Maryville, TN. They are both retired. John enjoys working with model trains and photography. Barbara enjoys reading and knitting. They are sponsored by Greg and Rachelle Oppenhuizen.

Dan De Graaf



Dan De Graaf joins by reaffirmation of faith. He was born in Holland. He is presently the co-owner of Armstrong De Graaf International Fine Art in Saugatuck and Holland. He is sponsored by Doug Abell and David VanHeest.

“There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, varieties of service but the same Lord, varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
-I Corinthians 12:4-7

Linda and Bob Rynbrandt



Bob and Linda Rynbrandt join by transfer from Second Reformed Church in Zeeland, MI. Bob is President and Founding Partner of Global Concepts, Holland, Mi. Linda is Associate Professor Emerita of Sociology at Grand Valley State University. She is a board member at the Center for Women in Transition and a docent at Holland Museum. They have three children and two grandchildren. Whenever possible, Linda and Bob enjoy beach time in North Carolina and Michigan. They are sponsored by David and Janice Chase.

Dave VanDoorne



Dave VanDoorne joins by transfer from First Baptist of Birmingham, Birmingham, MI. He enjoys living on the north side of Lake Macatawa and participates in many water activities. He is also an avid cyclist and downhill skier. Dave works at Hope College advising students with disabilities. He is sponsored by Jim Piers.

Steve and Nancy Berry



Steve and Nancy Berry, join by transfer from Harderwyk Ministries, Holland, MI. Steve is an Attorney and an avid golfer. He is the son of church members, Myra and Roy Berry. Nancy is a retired Substitute Teacher and Master Gardener. Both enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. They are sponsored by John and Pat Tysse.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

May 3 -10: Lectionary-Based Bible Study**Room 106**

Informed by insights from theologian James Alison and philosopher/literary critic René Girard, elder Curtis Gruenler will lead a discussion of lectionary texts.

May 10-17: Planning a Good Funeral**Commons I**

Many of us have gone to enough funerals or celebrations of life to distinguish between the good and bad ones. What makes for a good funeral?

May 10: Judy Parr will put forth for discussion some highlights from *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care*, a book co-authored by Thomas Long (a preacher) and Thomas Lynch (a funeral director).

May 17: Funeral Director Craig Kleinheksel of Dykstra Funeral Home will describe what happens when family members work with pastors and a funeral home when a loved one dies. What are the decisions to make? What would be the simplest kind of funeral? What would constitute a most extravagant funeral? What are the advantages of planning one's own funeral? What are recent trends in funerals, memorial services, and committal services?

A Day (or should I say hour) In the Life of a Kids Hope Mentor

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope mentor



Driving down 16th street on a Tuesday afternoon, my thoughts turn to my upcoming meeting with Ale, who I mentor for Kids Hope. Will she have her homework done so we have time to play a game? What stories will she tell me about her past week? Is she remembering to read every night in hopes of improving her reading skills? But the overall thought is, "Boy, am I glad I take the time to do this!"

Arriving at Vanderbilt Academy I proceed to the office where I pick up my Kids Hope badge and then up the stairs to meet Ale in her 4th grade classroom. First I see the smile and then get a hug as she comes through the door with her notebook in hand.

We find a place to meet, sit down and start conversing. I love hearing about her family get-togethers, her 3-year-old brother, and of course how her progress in school is going. If there's

homework she does that first, followed by her reading a message from her "special friend" (Ann Anderson) and writing one back.

Then it's game time! Ale asks to pick it out and off she heads to the Kids Hope closet. In it she finds books, cards, arts and craft supplies, puzzles and games. She picks one of my favorites, Scrabble, and brings it to the table where we play our own version of the game by turning all the letters upright and then seeing how many words we can spell. Even though it's a game she is learning spelling and by adding up our score she is using her math skills.

Sometimes we have time for another game but if not, it's a hug between us and Ale heads back to the classroom with a smile and the assurance that someone cares enough to take the time to be with her, help her and care deeply for how she is doing. Thank God for the Kids Hope Program! Wouldn't you like to be involved????

STAFFING UPDATES

Administrative Assistant: Amy Sall



The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Amy Sall has been hired to serve Hope Church as administrative assistant. Amy will begin Monday, May 4. Amy has lived in Zeeland for the last 25 years where she and her husband Todd have raised their 3 children, Katharine (Adam), Nicholas and Jennifer (Joshua). They have one grandson, Elliot, who brings a ton of joy and energy to their lives. They love to camp at local state parks, boat and travel as much as possible together. Amy was previously an Administrative Secretary at a

Zeeland Church and the Receptionist at Providence Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Zeeland. She is so very grateful and excited to be joining the staff at Hope Church and looks forward to the opportunity to meet all of you. Look for opportunities in the coming weeks to meet and welcome Amy to Hope Church! Amy will be officially welcomed in worship at the 11 AM service on May 17.

Parish Nurse: Ginger Clark

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Ginger Clark will be beginning in early May as our new Parish Nurse from Resthaven. Ginger Clark is a Registered Nurse with many years of various nursing experiences. She is a graduate of Mercy Central School of Nursing; Grand Rapid, MI. She has worked as a specialty nurse in Holland and Grand Rapids, MI., Clearwater, Florida and Toccoa, Georgia. This has given her a diversified view of patient care and how to incorporate the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of healing and wellness.

She enjoys hiking, biking, bird watching, boating and spending quality time with family and friends. She lives in Holland with her husband, Tim and daughter, Ashley. She has 2 sons and 5 grandchildren living in South Carolina and Colorado. Visiting them gives her great joy! Look for opportunities in the coming weeks to meet and welcome Ginger to Hope Church! Ginger will be officially welcomed in worship at the 11 AM service on May 17.



Dishwashing Details

We have hired Loretta Smith in a new modified housekeeper position that is only on Monday mornings (about 1-1.5 hours a week on average). Loretta's work involves doing any dishes from Sunday and cleaning the kitchen up. Ric Beltran will be providing support for events at other times in the week.

A few other items of clarification about dishwashing:

- Please always rinse off all dishes thoroughly immediately after any event
- If dishes are to be washed by a staff person, your group must arrange for this BEFORE any event by contacting the church office
- Please do small amounts of dishes yourself

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 Building and Grounds Ministry

Duane Kooyers, Building and Grounds Ministry chair

The Building and Grounds Ministry is responsible for the care and maintenance of the physical facilities and the grounds of Hope Church. It oversees repair and replacement of systems and equipment, the purchase of expendable supplies, and the payment for utilities and services. This ministry takes seriously the commitment to be good stewards of our church resources, while remaining mindful of and maintaining the historical beauty of our place of worship.

Some of the things we do to support the other ministries of Hope Church:

- Run sound equipment for worship and sound and video equipment for Adult Ed.
- Arrange streaming of Sunday service to WHTC for broadcast, and recording of services so copies can be made available.
- Acquire and configure computers for church office staff, arrange

web hosting and e-mail services, set up church Wi-Fi, and keep the phone system working.

- Oversee lighting (color balance and energy conservation). We have been replacing old lighting with new higher efficiency lighting as technology and cost make sense.
- Arrange heating and cooling controls – provide energy conservation through programming to heat and cool only during times when spaces are used. We recently added the education wing to the programmable control system and replaced the old boiler.
- Arrange sprinkling, mowing, and leaf removal. For the past several years we've had Hope College students helping with fall garden maintenance through Hope's Community Day program. A special thank-you to David VanHeest and Doug Abell for all

they do with the gardens.

- Arrange snow removal and plowing.
- Repair chimneys and vents, patch and replace roofs, tuck-point bricks, and fix leaks.
- Replace and clean carpets, patch and paint walls, fix tables, and keep dishwasher working.
- Get signs and markers up, parking lot striped and sealed, bats out of the belfry and raccoons out of the ceiling.
- Arrange hangers, cables and hoists used for display of art we've all enjoyed in worship.

If you've any talents or interest in any of these areas that you'd like to share, we welcome you to join us. Contact any of the Building and Grounds Ministry members: Duane Kooyers (chair). David Hawley, Ben Sikkink, Greg Doxstader and staff support from, Megan Arevalo, Gordon Wiersma, and Ric Beltran.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Health Ministry.

Caring for Creation Prepares for E-Waste Recycling Event - Sat., May 16

The Caring for Creation Ministry is again teaming with Holland BPW, Consumer's Energy, CompRenew and others for an electronics waste recycling collection on **Saturday, May 16, at the Holland BPW building at 625 Hastings Avenue, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.**

Caring for Creation will receive four cents per pound of waste collected. In addition, large working appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers are

eligible for rebates from HBPW and Consumer's Energy.

There are several ways you can help with this project:

1. Volunteer to help for a two hour shift at the Hastings Avenue collection site or as part of a crew that will be collecting items for Hope Church members and friends. Contact Joe Arevalo if you can assist in this way.
2. Tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives about it and join together

to bring items for recycling.

3. If you are unable to bring large items to Hastings Avenue yourself, call or email the church office by Thursday, May 14, and we will make arrangements to pick them up.
4. If you have only small items, (a grocery bag full or less) bring them to church on Sundays, May 3 or 10 and members of Caring for Creation will collect them there.

Follow-up on Comedications

Earl Laman, Health Ministry member



Is COMEDications just a cutesy word to get attention? Is using humor for health purposes just a gimmick—a psychological trick? Is laughter/funny-stuff just a temporary uplift?—an emotional shot to help forget for a while?

“Medication” immediately conjures up pills, potions, shots and sedations. Let’s get literal: Medicinal- “having the properties of curing, healing or relieving.” Let’s get not-so-literal: we do say: “Laughter is the Best Medicine.” (Reader’s Digest) So, getting “attention”, a psychological jolt, a spirit uplift, or an emotional shot might be good enough.

HOWEVER, and that’s a big ‘however’, there’s much MORE! Last month’s expression about “humor and health” was based on scintillating sources as well as experience, but don’t just take my word for it. Here’s a summary statement from a study source:

Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, pain, and conflict. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded, focused, and alert.

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships, and supporting both physical and emotional health.

OR THIS ONE: Humor is infectious. The sound of roaring laughter is far more contagious than any cough, snuffle, or sneeze. When laughter is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness and intimacy. Laughter also triggers healthy physical changes in the body. Humor and laughter strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain, and protect you from the damaging effects of stress. Best of all, this priceless medicine is fun, free, and easy to use.

The Health Ministry bulletin board in May will feature humor from the

“The Gospel According to Peanuts”—both Charles Schulz and Robert Short certainly believed that a spoonful of humor helps the lessons of spiritual life go down. “The Parables of Peanuts” will also be on the table below the bulletin board and inhabit the shelves below afterwards.

ALSO, below the bulletin board you’ll find two separate pick-up sheets: one will elaborate on the understanding of Humor and Health; the other will give further resources and practical help in making Humor a real, Spirit-anointed part of growth in our faith-lives.

Don’t we love humor in church? Well, back some years a group of seminary students visited an evening service of an area church. It was an assignment to experience preachers with different styles and approaches; this preacher was known for his very pious emphases. During the pastoral prayer he expressed, “Oh God, give us a feeling heart!” However, he got the first letter of the last two words mixed up! The seminarians’ pew quivered with choked-off laughter— which broke loose in the car heading home. They were relaxed and balanced all week.

Health Ministry Says Fond Farewell to Julia Brown

To my friends in Christ at Hope Church,

I want to thank you for warmly welcoming me into the Hope Church community during my internship this past year and a half. Your support, care, and witness to the Word have been such a blessing and inspiration!

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to serve closely with the Health Ministry folks, and am invigorated by their unique service. Thank you all for becoming family to me, and for allowing me to love and serve in the name of our Lord with you. Grace and peace to you!

Sincerely,
Julia Brown

Resurrection Work: A Conversation about Lenten Art

Judith Boogaart, Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality Ministry member

During this season of Lent we were privileged to enjoy artwork created by Hope Church member Kari Miller-Fenwood on our bulletin covers and displayed in the gathering area. The artwork will remain during May, with one more piece being installed on May 10th. The following is part of a conversation I had with Kari about this body of work.

JB: Can you tell us a little about how these pieces came to be?

KMF: I've been working on this "resurrection work" for about 23 years. Each year in the weeks before Easter I find myself returning to it, creating new pieces and meditating on Christ's journey to the cross—how he confronts his awful task and becomes the capstone of God's redemption.

In the medieval cathedrals, the capstone—the final top piece of an arch—bears the pressure of the columns and holds it all together. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, becomes the capstone of our hope. Spring is the time when things reawaken, and during Lent we confront the shadows in ourselves and seek a renewed relationship with God. In this work I am trying

to create an atmosphere that reflects the trajectory of God's work through Jesus Christ in our lives—that unseen power that is around us all the time. It is not so much a representation but rather a quality I'm seeking to capture.

JB: What was the artistic process behind these pieces?

KMF: All of the resurrection work—I've done probably 200 to date—is done with paper and watercolors. I fold the paper, rather like origami, and then pour water colors of different strengths and hues onto it. I do this on a surface such as a plastic or metal table, or sometimes outside on the earth, so the pigment can flow through the paper and then infuse back into it.

The marbleizing and patterns that form are amazing, and the intriguing part of this process is that you never know exactly what will appear. The wash of color, how it bleeds sideways and through the layers, and how the folds create the different lines of the piece, are revealed as you unfold it. I sometimes add pastel drawing on top of the unfolded pieces as well.

JB: Worship Ministry chose this

year to use color to symbolize the attributes of God that we meditated on during Lent. Can you talk a bit about that?

KMF: I researched how color has been used—in the Catholic Church, in our Protestant tradition, even by the writers of scripture at times—as a means to understand who God is and to express truths about God. It was rewarding to see how it all came together for our Lenten exploration of God's attributes of mercy, fidelity, wisdom, steadfast love, and new life, and how we can tend these in our own lives.

When working with this medium I identify with women who through the centuries create useful pieces with wonderful aesthetics. I think of quilting, or batik, and I like that tie-in to art in the developing world. I love seeing how the pigment will puddle between the layers and form different intensities in various places. I can see hints of butterfly wings in some of the shapes that appear or the duskiness of the color.

We thank Kari for sharing her artwork with us, and also for sharing these thoughts about her process to help us appreciate it even more.

May Birthdays

06 Ed Boer

Care Group: 1

26 Mary McCune

Care Group: 5

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

Thank Yous

Many thanks to all who have made prayer shawls for members of Hope Church and beyond. They are beautiful and so appreciated. Another "TAKE & MAKE" bag is available by the health ministry bulletin board.

*With Gratitude,
~Ann Piet Anderson*

Thank you so much for the support that we have received during the past months. Your calls, cards and prayers have helped us through a difficult time and we ask for your continued support as we wait to see if Bob's treatment will be successful. We are truly blessed to be a part of the Hope Church community.

~Bob and Judy Bos

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Teacher Appreciation Reception, May 17

The Christian Education Ministry invites everyone to the Teacher Appreciation reception for our Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders. The reception will take place after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 17th. After pizza lunch, we hope that everyone will extend their sincere thanks to those who have taught and led our adults, youth and children with a creative, faithful and willing spirit. All leaders, teachers and music leaders will be honored for their service to Hope Church. Hope Church values our educational opportunities and we ask everyone to stay for this short reception to share in the celebration.

Notes of Appreciation

One way to show our thanks is to sign or write a short note on the banner that is available in the Gathering Area on the Sundays prior to the reception. Please spend a few minutes to show your support and appreciation. You will find a listing of all the Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders and you may write a word of appreciation to them individually or

as a whole. Of course you may thank them in person at the reception or send a personal note to them as well.

Children's Sabbath - Prayer PALS: Prayers Always Lovingly Said

On Sunday, May 3, we will celebrate the Children's Sabbath, a day when we as a congregation promise to nurture and pray in support of the children of Hope Church as well as those children with special concerns around the world. We want to celebrate all children on this Sunday and everyday that follows.

The congregation will have the opportunity to select names of children to support and pray for in the coming year. The names of all the children in each family will be included on the Prayer PALS sheet. We hope that this will allow each child in a family to have a similar experience with their Prayer PALS. There will be more information and ideas on how you can convey to those children how important and valued they are to Hope Church. We will also provide cards that may be sent to the family to introduce the adult to the child (ren). Our children are an important and valuable part of our congregation as they share their joy and energy with

each of us and we celebrate them. Please note: the 4th and 5th graders will take part in the 11 a.m. service.

Church School & Children in Worship

May 17 is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The teachers, worship leaders and children have all had a wonderful year learning, worshipping and growing together! The following week, May 24, children ages three through those who have completed second grade will be meeting together in the Youth Room when they are dismissed from the 10 a.m. worship service.

Christian Education Survey

The Christian Education Ministry is looking for some input from families regarding our current offerings and your vision for other opportunities that your family would value. When you are contacted please take some time to complete this survey. We will use the information received in future decisions as we continue to find ways to help nurture the faith formation of you and your family members. It is our hopes that together as a community of families and Hope Church members, teachers, and leaders we will grow in faith together.

Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle One will be meeting at Marge DeBlaay's **May 6th, at 9:30 AM**. **Circle 2** will meet on Wednesday, **May 13 at 9:30 AM** at Hope Church in Commons II. **Circle 4** will not meet in May.

Coffee Time at Warm Friend

The next Coffee Time will be at the Warm Friend on Tuesday, **May 12 at 10:30 a.m.** This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for

residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour. All are welcome!

Discerning Holy Relationships Continues May 13 and May 20

The board of elders is in a discernment process regarding what Hope Church's position will be on same-gender marriage should they become legal in Michigan. Please note the series

that began on April 22 will continue on May 13 and May 20 from 6:45pm-8:30pm. Even if you didn't attend in April, plan to take part in May! Small-group portions of the discussions will be facilitated by prepared consistory members whose job it will be to encourage full participation and active listening using the principles of restorative circles. You can also find resources and more information in the gathering area.

Events and Announcements Continued

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will close out their book choices for this season with **THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS** by M.L. Stedman. Leading the discussion will be Bette Williams. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 20**, at 1 PM in the Commons. Visitors are always welcome.

Hope Church Co-Ed Softball

Softball season is on the horizon! The season begins in May--people of all skill levels are welcome to participate. This is a great way to enjoy fellowship at Hope Church and get some exercise at the same time! Sign up in the gathering area or contact Andrew Spidahl.

Attention Graduates!

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

Summer Worship Times

On **Sunday, May 24**, the summer worship time will change to **10:00 a.m.** Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in the Youth Room after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

How about a game of golf to benefit the CDS Lakeshore Head Start?

The CDS Lakeshore Head Start is an organization which Hope Church has supported and housed in part for 50 years. On Friday, May 15, CDS is sponsoring a fundraiser. The primary way you can support CDS's effort to support children's readiness for school (and life) by 1) participating in a golf outing at Macatawa Legends Golf & Country Club, 2) making a donation of goods to be auctioned off at that event, and/or 3) making a cash donation. If you want to know more about this worthy cause, pick up a hand-out at the Welcome Center. Also, ask Josh Beard, Kathy Sheridan, or Judy VanderWilt, all Hope Church members who are CDS board members, for more information.

Sabbatical Staffing Plan ~ Fall 2015

As Pastor Jill is on sabbatical this Fall, the Personnel Committee has put together a staffing plan to help cover some of her ongoing responsibilities. The Consistory has approved this plan and funding for these staffing needs was set aside by the Consistory previously.

Worship & Preaching

Each month there will be a different leader to assist in preaching and worship leadership:

September: **Andrew Spidahl**, preaching and liturgist

October: **Chris Dorsey**, preaching; Sharon Arendshorst, liturgist

November: **Carol Bechtel**, preaching and liturgist

Administrative Support

Megan Arevalo will provide increased administrative support to assist Gordon during the sabbatical time. Megan will also provide support to some ministries and to mid-week and weekend program events.

Program Support

Jocelyn Van Heest will coordinate and administer the Advent planning and programming, and she will provide administrative support to the Outreach & Hospitality Ministry.

Beth Jarvis will plan and implement the Wednesday evening Fall study series as well as lead a September Adult Ed Series for Parents.

Pastoral Care

Sharon Arendshorst will work with Pastor Gordon to provide pastoral care support to the congregation and she will provide administrative support to the Congregational Care Ministry & Health Ministry Team.

and finally

It's hard to believe that I am coming into the end of my seventh year as co-pastor here at Hope Church. On the one hand, this place feels so much like home that it feels like I've been here much longer. On the other hand, the time has gone by so very fast. As you read in the newsletter last month I am being offered a sabbatical this fall. This is a practice here at Hope Church to offer pastors a sabbatical after every seven years of ministry. I have read the research over the years about why sabbaticals are encouraged in pastoral ministry: time away for renewal helps to mitigate the very high burn out rate among clergy, time for sustained study and exploration increases vitality and creativity in ministry. Many congregations know this but few that I have served have been able to pull together the resources to provide sabbaticals and even if they did I was working as an interim minister so never served a congregation long enough to be eligible for one. Having a first sabbatical at the time I mark the 20th anniversary of my ordination this fall feels like a beautiful gift! I am deeply aware that few people receive sabbaticals in their work and so I do not take this gift for granted.

Over the years that I have served among you, I have felt increasingly called to the ministry of reconciliation. All of my life it seems and certainly all of my ministry, I have found myself in the role of standing in the breach between people who see themselves at odds with one another and trying to help facilitate some mutual understanding, to help generate some common ground, and if necessary to offer a path toward healing. Chalk it up to being a middle child but I have always been drawn to the work of peacemaking and reconciliation. I increasingly see this work as a fundamental calling of the church as we bear witness to the gospel of Jesus who reconciles and make all things whole. And while I was prepared for many things through my seminary education, the practical work of reconciliation was not a part of the curriculum. I've been seeking out that education wherever I can find it and it has been a fascinating journey that has taken me to courses on Appreciative Inquiry, conflict transformation, and more recently Restorative Circles.

In my sabbatical I want to explore the church's ministry of reconciliation in more depth. I'm interested in exploring the theological ground for practices of reconciliation as well as develop and expand practical tools for reconciliation. I expect to continue to develop the work of Restorative Circles with an emphasis on interpreting this practice for the Christian community. I want to explore the work of the Colossians Forum in Grand Rapids which is a ministry with a specific focus on facilitating dialogical conversations within the church on controversial issues. I plan to investigate the resources that the Iona Community has been offering to the church through their many years of peacemaking work (and have plans to spend a week in residence there!). And I will be exploring the inward dimensions of reconciliation work through journaling, continued work with my pastoral coach and clergy colleagues on this theme, and by investigating some artistic exploration as a component of reconciliation ministry.

I cannot thank you enough for the gift of this sabbatical and look forward to sharing the fruits of it with you when that time has come to an end!

Peace,

Pastor Jill



Hope Church News

May 2015



June, July, August Greeters Schedule

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

Below are the households assigned to greet prior to the 10 a.m. service in the upcoming months*. Please note that worship in the sanctuary begins at 10:00 a.m. May 24-September 6.

June Greeters

07 Fred & Charlotte Leaske
14 Jean McFadden & Sebastiano
Picciuca
21 Don & Peg Luidens
28 Linda McFadden & Ann Meengs

July Greeters

05 Lois Maassen & Chris Wiers
12 Kay MacKenzie & Judy
Mastenbrook
19 Brad & Christine MacLean
26 Bob & Jan Mahaney

August Greeters

02 Megan & Tom Marthens
09 Nate & Angie Martin
16 Sam & Jean Martin
23 Jim & Ann McKnight
30 Henry & Shari Luttikuizen

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