



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 58, No. 7

August 2015

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## Inserts:

- August Calendar
- Lectionary

**Pastor Jill's sabbatical begins August 10 . She returns November 23.**

**The deadline for the September newsletter is Tuesday, August 18.**

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:

9:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: Closed

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Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 392-7947  
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## The Wind of the Spirit Was Surely There!

Earl Laman



The wind itself had a presence. Made its presence felt by keeping everyone cool, splashing the music across the green of Window on the Waterfront, flapping rainbow colors joyously, causing trees to clap their hands, distributing booth papers indiscriminately, ruffling everyone's hair, and causing early booth dismantling.

The wind of the Spirit was surely present. Seemed to meet us at the entrance. Or did we bring it with us? It made its presence felt for five hours- different than ever before at our Holland PRIDE Festival. Seemingly it rode the wind through everyone circling the sidewalks.

The only serious conversations were in celebration for fulfillment of hopes through Friday's Supreme Court decision, gratitude for the dispersment of inequality and for future freedom for LGBT persons, and quiet talk about love's new acknowledgment and possibilities for known persons and couples.

Oh, but the Spirit whipped through in

the multitude of happy hugs, the escalation of laughter, the appearances of rainbows at every turn, the tempo and tone of the melodies, the delight in empathizing with those personally rejoicing, the upbeat of conversations, the adorning of clothing with symbols of togetherness, and the worthfulness everyone felt at being there at such a timely occasion.

The police officers, anticipating possible protesters, simply watched the vibrant activity. People ate and drank more than comfort food. More diversity of persons appeared among us. Children of gay and lesbian couples swung arms with their parents. Plans for the future were revealed. An array of 50 sponsors stood forth. Cordiality abounded. Hopes are no longer fear-coated.

Oh, everyone knew some people in the community were shaking heads, possibly angry or planning protests, not understanding or having arrived at the place we had. But everyone there was relieved and grateful to be experiencing a community of equality now recognized across our land.

Faith, hope and love permeated the atmosphere. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" seemed to have become more real.

## Moving Forward with Living Hope Facilities Renovation

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

### A LIVING HOPE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for FACILITIES REVITALIZATION



As communicated following their June meeting, Consistory has approved moving forward with the Living Hope facilities renovation project. Their decision was based on the "superb" and "tremendous" progress toward the fundraising goal, as measured by both dollars and the number of donors.

After some discussion about design intent and resources available, Consistory also specified that the elevator to the second floor of the education wing, previously listed as an "alternate," be formally included in the project scope. Without it, they

felt, we had not accomplished our goal of "welcoming all."

Fundraising will continue until the goal is met; if you have not yet made a pledge, contact the church office to be a part of this next chapter in our history together! If you have pledged, you will see progress in payment of that pledge on your regular giving statements.

Elevate Studio, the architect for the project, has been re-engaged; our relationship with Elzinga & Volkers has been formalized with a contract for construction management. The team

is currently assessing which parts of the plan might be accomplished this fall, before the major construction season; and outlining the milestones for the process, based on an intention to be ready to request bids for the major construction by January 15. That date positions us well for competitive prices and for breaking ground as soon as spring arrives.

The Living Hope Design Team will recommence its work in mid-August, at which point the project blog, at [LivingHopeRCA.wordpress.com](http://LivingHopeRCA.wordpress.com) or linked from the Hope Church website, will again be active with updates.

## Are You Able to Join Our 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 and Prayer Partners are needed to complete the Hope Church Kids Hope Team. For more information, please contact Anne Duinkerken (616-550-0279) or Barbara Joldersma (399-7319). Anyone 16 years or older is welcome to participate.

Our Kids Hope Partner School is Vanderbilt Charter Academy, 75% of whose student body is eligible for free and reduced lunch.

In 2014-2015, we were able to work with 21 at-risk students. Our prayer is that with your help, we can work with even more in 2015-2016.

# Introduction to New Parish Nurse

Ginger Clark, RN, Parish Nurse



Greetings to my Hope Church family! As the new Parish Nurse, I'd like to share my vision and commitment to the good health of all of us- BODY, MIND and SPIRIT.

Please note my recommendations of what a Parish Nurse is and how I can help – along with our wonderful Health Ministry Team.

The parish nurse is a health educator, a health counselor, a guide to community resources, an emotional support in times of crisis, a prayer

warrior, an encourager and a guide to healing . All these things are done in faith and with compassion.

Parishioners of all ages need help coping with everyday life, stress and their many health challenges. I am dedicated to assist in the process of meeting the needs of seniors, families, adolescents and children.

When to call the Parish Nurse:

- If you or a family member is sick
- If you don't understand something your doctor has told you
- If you are concerned about your parent, children, family members or friends
- If you are lonely
- If you are feeling overwhelmed
- If you or someone you know is having surgery
- If you are dealing with a loss or

death

- If you are in need of prayer
- If you are struggling with a relationship
- If you are looking for ways to improve your health
- If you need someone to listen

The connection of physical, emotional, relational and spiritual wellness is very powerful. Please see the wheel below for a guide to evaluating your overall health.

"Thy faith has made you whole. Go in peace." Luke 8:48

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

## The Church Health Center Model for Healthy Living



### Faith Life

Building a relationship with God, your neighbors, and yourself.



### Movement

Discovering ways to enjoy physical activity.



### Medical

Partnering with your healthcare provider to manage your medical care.



### Work

Appreciating your skills, talents, and gifts.



### Emotional

Managing stress and understanding your feelings to better care for yourself.



### Nutrition

Making smart food choices and developing healthy eating habits.



### Family & Friends

Giving and receiving support through relationships.





## Introduction to Sharon Arendshorst, Sabbatical Pastoral Care

Sharon Arendshorst, Hope Church Elder

Tom and I joined Hope Church in 2009 following my retirement as a RCA Specialized Interim Minister (SIM). I attended Western Theological Seminary in the 1990s with a desire to dig more deeply into the scriptures. To my surprise and by God's hidden design, I graduated six years later with a M.Div. degree, and felt called to pastoral ministry. I discovered interim ministry to be a match for my gifts. I've served five churches in the Holland Classis as their pastor, coming alongside them during times of transition and discerning together God's call for their futures.

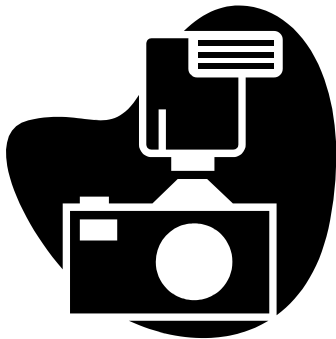
Tom and I lived in Nairobi, Kenya for six

months in 2005 as a part of his peace studies. I preached at the Kenyan Evangelical Lutheran Church while their pastor was on home leave and worked with Amani Peoples' Theater (APT). APT used drama and the arts in communities to help address conflict. When we returned to Holland, I entered WTS again to explore how to incorporate the learnings from APT into my work as an interim minister with churches in transition and frequently experiencing conflict. At my last church, I even had the consistory role-playing and dancing!

I am humbled to have been elected an elder at Hope Church and to have

been asked to work with Gordon to provide pastoral care to Hope Church congregants and to support the Congregational Care and Health Ministries during Jill's sabbatical. I see pastoral care as an opportunity to walk alongside individuals and families, at their invitation, during significant moments in their lives—to be present, to listen, and together to pray and bear witness to God's grace. I look forward to our time in this season and ask for your prayers for the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance as we journey together in this new way for a while.

## Hope Church Photo Directory: September 21-26



It's been six years since the last Hope Church photo directory, which means we are definitely due for an update! Photos for our new 2015 Photo Directory will be taken September 21-26. There are portrait sessions available for you to sign up for between 2:00-8:30 on September 21-25, and between 9:00-4:30 on September 26. Here's what you need to know:

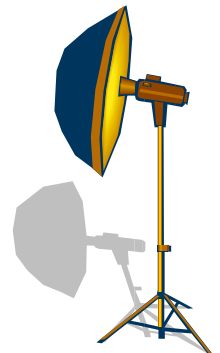
- All photos will be taken at Hope Church.
- Sign up for photo sessions will officially begin Sunday, August 16 and can be done in-person (Sundays after worship and

during weekday office hours) and online (at [HopeChurchRCA.org](http://HopeChurchRCA.org) - click on the photo directory slider on the home page or click on the "happening" page and then the photo directory icon). You can also just type in this URL to go directly to the sign up page: <https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/hopereformedchurch/index.php?page=10>

- You may register ahead of August 16 by doing so online.
- Photo sessions are 100% free. Just for participating, you will receive a complimentary 8" x 10" portrait and a free church directory.
- You will have the option of purchasing prints, but will not be required to do so. Lifetouch promises a friendly, no-pressure experience for all Hope Church members.
- In addition to printed directories, we will also offer the option of an online directory. Taking into consideration the privacy of Hope Church members, all photos and

information will be password protected.

We are hopeful that this will make for an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Please start thinking about when you will be available for a photo session. If you have any questions, please call the church office, (616) 392-7947.



## Deacons' Fund: Help from the "Yellow Envelopes"

Judith Boogaart, Deacon

Often our pastors or the staff encounter someone with a need—money for food, gas to get to a job interview, counseling to help with a family situation—and want to help. Thank goodness for your generous support of the Deacons' Fund! It gives the staff a source of ready cash to respond right away. (If the amount needed is large, the Senior Deacon is consulted before assistance is given.)

When you put a little something in that yellow offering envelope every couple of months, you help replenish

this fund that is used for our members and others from the community who find themselves needing a little help. Need takes many forms, such as utility payments to prevent gas or water shutoff, a rent payment so someone doesn't lose their home, or furniture and appliances to make a new place livable—as well as the usual food and gas.

August 2 is the next designated offering envelope, but if you feel led to give at other times, don't let the lack of a yellow envelope stop you. Just

use any envelope and write "Deacons' Fund" on the outside (or on the check memo line).

The deacons monitor this fund at our meetings and plan to submit a report to the congregation at the end of the year highlighting some of the ways the money has been used.

Thank you for supporting this ministry arm of Hope Church!

### 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 Caring for Creation Ministry

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

The focus of Caring for Creation is simply that: Caring for Creation. Caring is both an action and a description. We hope you both act in a way that causes creation to flourish as well possess concern for the earth and its innumerable interrelated processes. For example, you might choose to recycle food containers or compost food waste. On the other hand, you might worry that individual actions make too small of an impact and choose instead to advocate for higher renewable energy standards or a carbon fee and dividend. Both choices exhibit Caring.

Caring for Creation aims to engage as many people as possible in whatever ways possible to whatever levels of commitment are desired. For some of you, this will mean recycling bulletins, reading from the Caring for Creation bulletin board (across the hall from

the choir room), or composting. For others, this will mean attending lectures, film screenings, or events. Still others may desire to take action by planting trees, installing solar, or contacting politicians. All these choices engage you in the redemptive mission of Caring and all equally deserve encouragement.

Mark your calendar with upcoming events:

- July 25: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. - 2015 Macatawa Water Festival at Windmill Island Gardens
- August 15: approx. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Tour of 8th Day Farm (with local food lunch if there is interest) - sign up in the gathering area!
- September 12: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Outdoor Discovery Center led family friendly kayak expedition of Macatawa River (pre-registration required, free for Hope Church

members)

- September 27 during Pizza Sunday in room 106 - Screening of the documentary Dirt!
- October 18: 9:40 am - Adult Education by Steven Bouma-Prediger on the recent Pope Francis Encyclical on the Environment
- October 25: 9:40 am - Adult Education by Steven Bouma-Prediger on Cultivating Ecological Virtues
- October 25 during Pizza Sunday in room 106 - update on Project Clarity from Macatawa Watershed Project

If any of these things sound interesting to you, or if you have any other ideas for projects, events, or groups to get involved with, please contact Joe Arevalo.

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Adult Education Ministry.*

## Youth Ministry

Beth Jarvis, Youth Ministry Director

"Doubts are important. If we didn't have doubts, we wouldn't need God."  
~ 9th grade High Hopes Student

Teens say the most interesting things. One of my favorite "fly on the wall" moments came when I was driving Middle Schoolers from Mt. Pisgah to Teusink's Farm this past May. We had a jam-packed day, which started with an Appalachian Trail practice hike right after church and ended with our end of the year Fish Club party at the farm. I had the pleasure of having mostly boys in my vehicle and in the span of our 20-minute ride, they covered a range of conversation topics from their favorite formation-of-the-universe film documentary, to the latest video games they had tried, to reigning scientific theories making the existence of zombies feasible. These are not topics most adults entertain and I could barely keep the grin off my face as I glanced at their

passion and intensity in my rear view mirror.

This would not be the last time I would witness the beauty of this passion and intensity. Our High Hopes group has been meeting this summer for a series of coffee shop discussions. Each week, we meet for smoothies, a time of catching up, and to discuss a different theological issue. Kind of like Pub Theology, but well, without the pub. I admit that I was a bit nervous to try this. Would anyone show up in the middle of their busy summer? Would anyone feel comfortable sharing their opinions on deep topics and in front of their peers? Would anyone care at all?

I should have known better. Not only were there ten teens who joined us that first week, there was so much lively discussion I had to shut it down in order that the youth could go to their waiting rides. Our topic that

first week was "Spiritual doubts" and much was said and asked regarding what it means to be a person who is in relationship with Christ, but still has doubts about how this faith plays out in one's life and world. The willingness to engage this tension with such a sense of mystery was inspiring. Oh that you too could have been a fly on that coffee shop wall, to view the passion and intensity that is so evident in the hearts and minds of our young people. God's spirit is at work among us indeed, be it in talks about zombies or talks about faith.



## Neighborhood Connection

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



### Washington School Neighbors

The Neighborhood Connector role for Washington School Neighborhood, which Hope Church has been supporting for the past several years and which I currently inhabit 20 hrs a week, is a bit hard to explain (at least in detail). I thought I'd share a connection story to help paint the picture as well as celebrate what I consider a success.

At the end of June Hope Church hosted

two Youth Connections crews from the City of Holland to do work for one week. One of these crews was donated to WSN. Part of my job as connector is to connect people and organizations for the benefit of residents. So in preparation for this week, I began to seek out job opportunities that would benefit neighbors.

The City of Holland had informed me that a house on 9th St. was in need of some attention for multiple violations, so when I investigated I found that it was my friend and neighbor Juan (who had just invited me to his 75th birthday party, and whose wife had been in and out of the hospital). His property needed painting and yard clean-up among other things. Fortunately, another non-profit organization in

the City, Homecor, had set aside some funds for WSN for just this type of project. I secured a dumpster through their funds to be dropped at Juan's house for three days, and the youth crew filled it up with his and another neighbor's items that needed removal, as well as getting a fair bit done on painting the garage. Who was involved? Hope Church, City of Holland, Escape Ministries, Homecor, WSN, and neighbors Juan and Polly, at least.

Juan was grateful. Polly was grateful. The City of Holland was grateful. One of the youth said he wanted my job. And it was all done in a spirit of personal relationship, built trust, and respect.



# Trail Mix; Teens, Tears, and Triumph

Larry Mulder, The Dutch Plodder

The Hope Church Appalachian Trail tradition has been an event spanning many years and many generations of young Fish Clubbers (26 years--200 kids and adults--1100 miles).

Through it our young people have been shown an environment that has been mostly foreign to them and most come to realize they have far more strength and perseverance than they thought they had. All learn how to live, and thrive, for a few days without stores, hair dryers, purified running water, electronic toys, and, devastating to some, flush toilets. Occasionally they are homesick and tears are not unknown, which is an important learning rite of passage.

We have established an adventure forum that gives our young people and adults too, an experience they won't soon forget even if they never sleep in a tent or hike in the rain or

achieve a summit climb again. The hike is not without risks and some adults may question whether these risks are justifiable for such young people. I believe they are. Although they are completely immersed in wild natural areas with rocks, roots, mud, poison ivy, slippery stream crossings, water borne giardiasis, and are at times a long way from civilization, they are also surrounded by a caring experienced group of adult leaders who DO understand the risks and prepare for them appropriately.

Our annual adventure affects our young people in a variety of ways. A few steadfastly vow NEVER to go again. Others make the same vow, but by early spring, when the blister pain and wet socks are a distant memory and they've had another birthday, again rise to the Appalachian Trail challenge. Many will go until their three year tenure in middle school is

over. Recently some young people actually ask for another year or two beyond their Fish Club years!

I'm glad that we have taken the risks and are still introducing our kids to the mountains. I continue to marvel each year at the adults who commit to the responsibility of leading these young people. It probably has something to do with comments our young people make. Comments like:

"I never saw a view like this one!"

"I didn't think I'd make it, but I did!"

"Thanks!"

And, best of all,

"I'm going again next year!"

Thanks be to God for watching over us and keeping us safe. Thank you Hope Church folks for giving me the opportunity to be part of the A/T scene for so many years.



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

## Events and Announcements

### Blueberry Pies - August 2

Luscious, handcrafted, blueberry pies for \$12.00. **Pies will be ready for pick-up on August 2.** A limited number of pies are available even if you didn't previously order them. Proceeds this year will again support the Gift of Hope program of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty which teaches women skills and provides income so that they can provide for themselves and their children. Products from the Gift of Hope program will be available for purchase on August 2 as well. The pie sale will also support a mission trip to Haiti scheduled for April 4-11, 2016.

### Hope and Grace: College and 20/30s Ministry – Summer Schedule

Post high school and 20/30s, join us this summer! Check out the rest of our summer schedule below:

**August 2:** Andrew Spidahl Ordination. 3pm at Hope Church

**August 8:** Whitecaps- \$10. Leave Grace at 5:45 pm (Reserve your spot with Christian Baron by August 1)

**August 13:** Ribs at the Barons. Texas BBQ. Must wear costume! 6-9:30pm. Bring a Texas side dish and a beverage.

### Potluck in the Park - August 9

Everyone is welcome at the 17th annual Potluck in the Park of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) on Sunday, August 9 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Dunton Park, 290 Howard Ave (west of River Ave/UNITY Bridge), Holland. Please 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, fantastic food, and lots of fun.

### Teusink's Farm Picnic - Aug. 14

Fellowship Ministry is hosting a summer picnic at **6 p.m. on Friday, August 14!** 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 pm it is *Family Fun Night* at the farm! You can take part in the activities or just enjoy visiting together at the picnic area. No reservations necessary! Come and enjoy a summer evening at the farm!

### Blood Drive - Sunday, August 16

You may make an appointment by calling the Red Cross or by signing up in the gathering area. Walk-ins are welcome as always. Beside blood donors we are in need of volunteers to operate the drive. Help is needed in the following areas:

- 2 persons on Saturday, August 15 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm to assist in setting up the needed equipment.
- 4 persons for Sunday August 16 for the welcoming table (1 person for each time period), 1) 8:30 -10:00 am. 2) 10:00 - 11:30 am. 3) 11:30 am - 1:00 PM. 4) 1:00 -2:30 pm.
- 2 persons on Sunday August 16 from 2:45 -3:30 pm to assist in taking down the used equipment.

### Kick Off Sunday - Sept. 13

The Hope Church Fall schedule begins Sunday, September 13. After the 11 a.m. service (note change from summer time), we will gather for our annual Kick Off Church Picnic on the church grounds. Watch for details in the September newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

### Hope Church Readers

The Hope Church Readers 2015-16 book list is now available. It may be picked up along with the new directory at the Welcome Desk on Sundays. Our next meeting will be on September 16 when we will be reviewing and discussing *I AM MALALA*. In the meantime happy reading!


### The Les Beach Memorial Fund

This fund has now closed, after years of providing spiritual support. Eight people were able to use it for Bethabara retreats. It was also used to buy 52 Shared Pain booklets written by Jean and Jim Cook for the Congregational Care Ministry to give out to those grieving in our community. In addition, it was used to purchase a rug for the prayer chapel. What a beautiful gift this has been in memory of Les Beach.

### New Kitchen Guidelines and Diagram

Make sure to check out the new kitchen guidelines document posted in the kitchen on the bulletin board when you walk in. There is also a new helpful cupboard diagram of the kitchen posted.

### Room For All 2015 Conference

 Join RfA in celebrating ten years of making room for all. "From Sorrow to Celebration" will be the theme of the special 10th Anniversary conference. Using the Psalms as a backdrop, the conference worship, workshops, keynote speakers and an interactive timeline will explore RfA's story in the context of the ever-widening circles of the church's response to God's inclusive love. The dates are Thursday evening, Oct. 22nd – Saturday noon, Oct. 24, with an optional additional day that concludes after worship on Sunday, Oct. 25. The conference will take place at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Thanks to generous underwriting, full scholarships are available for current full-time students at an RCA college or seminary. Register online by October 1 at: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1715477>.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

02	John DeWeert Care Group: 7
03	Char Alexander (Missionary) 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@hopechurchca.org](mailto:office@hopechurchca.org)

## Go & Glow



*"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.

## Thank You

*Dear Hope Church,*

*Your generosity to us for the garden party - and always for Washington School Neighbors - is a gift. We were so grateful for the free use of your building and kitchen and chairs - such a wonderful place for the neighborhood to meet. You are building God's kingdom through your open hands and giving spirits. Thank you!*

*~Kate Bolt*

*Washington School Neighbors*

*Dear Hope Church,*

*Thank you for helping send me to Camp Geneva! I had loads of fun! I spent most of my free time swimming, but also went to the camp store and arts and crafts. I liked my counselors and my cabin mates a lot! They were all so nice. The food was great, and I sang and yelled so much my voice is hoarse! But that just shows how much fun I had! I enjoyed Bible study and learning more about God's word. Thank you again for enabling me to go!*

*~Haleigh Smith*

*We would like to thank Chaplain David Blauw and pastors Jill and Gordon for their care, prayers, and hospital visits during Lee's recent surgery. We were touched by the thoughtful cards and calls we received from our Hope Church family and thank you all for your support and prayers.*

*~Lee and Joan Wenke*

*Thank you for being a friend of Holland Area Pride 2015! We greatly appreciate your ad placement and booth this year. Thank you!*

*~From the H.A.P. Board*

## Women's Service Day



Hope Church women are invited to participate in Women's Service Day to offer a whole or half day of their time

in support of local programs to benefit women and Children. Women's Service Day is an opportunity for women to offer their time, skills, and talent to nonprofit organizations in the Holland/Zeeland area, to increase awareness of issues for area women and children, and to network among women in our community.

The one-day annual event, which is organized by a group of women in our community (including Hope Church's Lois Maassen, Kallie Spidahl, and Angie Martin), is in its fourteenth year. In the past, we've cleaned and organized, painted and finished, landscaped and weeded, framed houses and raised rafters, cooked and baked, washed

windows, and assembled lesson plans and materials.

This year's event will be held on **Thursday, October 1**. Registration will open in mid-August. Learn more at [WomensServiceDay.com](http://WomensServiceDay.com). Contact us at [WomensServiceDay@gmail.com](mailto:WomensServiceDay@gmail.com). You can also help us expand our community network by inviting your sisters, friends, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, daughters, partners, and colleagues (aged 18 and older).

## Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

### Summer ponderings- fulfilling our baptism covenant with the children of Hope Church

As you are spending time this summer contemplating the year to come, include in your ponderings where God might be calling you to ministry. Think about the possibility of becoming involved as a Children in Worship leader, nursery care provider or even a visitor to the worship centers. After worshipping in the centers you may realize that this is a place where you are needed and where you will be able to share your gifts with the children. Nursery care giving is a great place to make connections with the young families of our church and have fun with the littlest members of our church. There can be great flexibility in scheduling and any amount of commitment will be a great service to our children's ministry. Everyone has something to share with the children and your talents will certainly be

appreciated. If you have an interest in participating in the Children in Worship experience of helping in the nursery, contact Jocelyn Van Heest at the church or by email [jocevh@juno.com](mailto:jocevh@juno.com).

### Summer Church School

We have had a wonderful summer learning about being part of God's Family. We have heard stories of Peter and the early church. We have also been discussing way we can be living members of God's growing family by participating with others as a community. We learn together, share together, meet together, eat together, pray together, share with others and praise God. The children have been reminded to pray for the youth of the church as they hike on the Appalachian Trail and as others are on a mission trip to New York. They will be decorating and filling "Birthday cake bags" with cake, frosting, candles and

napkins to be given to the Community Action House for special celebrations. During the month of August, we will be learning about Paul through song, stories and crafts and we will continue to try and make these stories relevant to our lives.

### Christian Education Survey

Families with children were sent an opportunity to respond to a survey about the offerings that are available for children, youth and families. We would still value any input of praise, concern or desire for new opportunities that you may have. There are print copies available in the office or you may reply through the online survey at this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17-gjBotlBdwNz1ob95BAIp4ajU1MWRL6gUSYOSm47M/viewform>. Thanks for your sharing your thoughts. We have received some responses that have been very helpful in our planning.

## and finally

### Open Sanctuary

The morning is cool and the neighborhood is calm as I approach the three sets of doors on 11th Street that are effectively the front entrance to Hope Church. One of them creaks open with the click of the lock, and with a small rush still air meets fresh air. My nose and skin notice the convergence. The doors stay open when pushed all the way, and soon all three stand wide, exposing the dim entrance to cool light and waking sounds.

Inside the sanctuary the morning sun is illuminating the Old Testament prophets in the east windows; it must be Ezekiel with the scroll, and King David with his harp. And Jesus is among them, a shepherd. Perhaps they offer a suggestion for how we should live--fill up with light and pass it along.

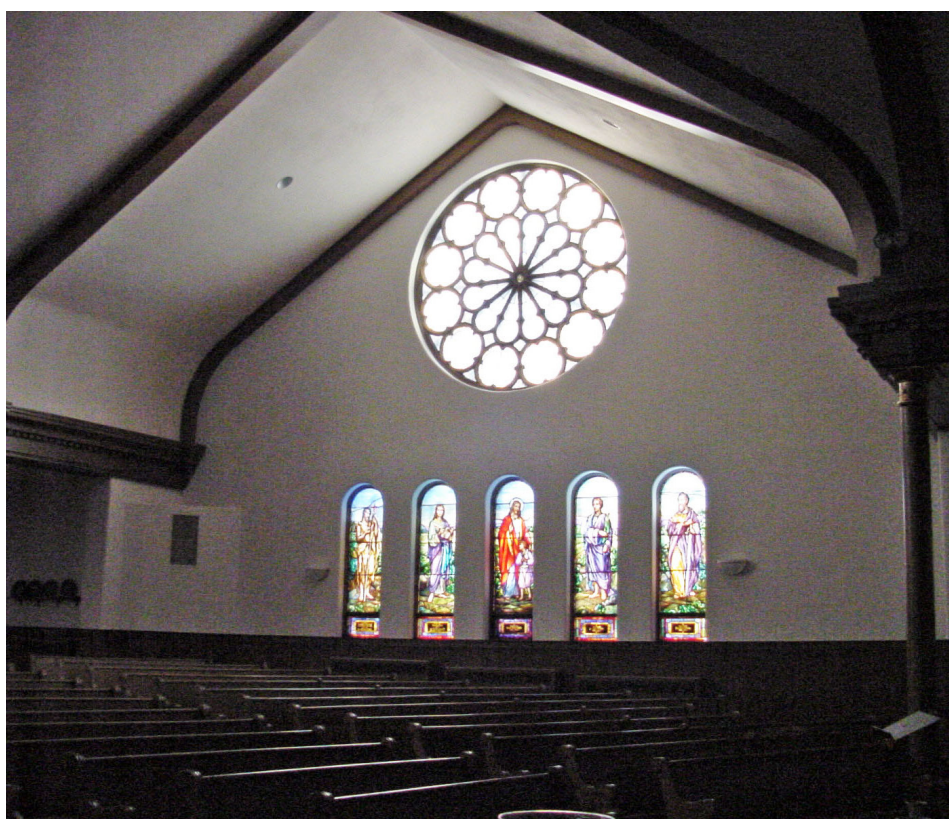
The space is dark and quiet, and the creak of my step almost startles me as I move toward the table. All is at peace, and the space itself beckons me to peace. I find the light switch for the engraved Lord's Supper and spend a moment after it is lit taking it in. In the semi-darkness its light draws my attention--friends sharing a meal around the table, intrigued by some new information, watching and whispering; a new covenant? Did they

ever imagine how big the table would be?

I look down the aisle and see the trees, light streaming in; I hear bird songs, muffled voices, and the occasional wash of a car going by. At the engraved table behind me, Jesus faces this direction as well, arms open.

*On Wednesday mornings you and the neighbors and visitors are invited to spend time in the space of our sanctuary from 8-9am for personal prayer and meditation. Our space is a gift to us and to the community, and this is a small way we can share it and open it to others. May it be a "house of prayer for all nations."*

~Andrew



## Andrew Spidahl Ordination: August 2

Come to affirm and celebrate the ordination of Andrew Spidahl to Minister of Word and Sacrament at 3pm on Sunday, August 2 at Hope Church. Light reception to follow.





# Hope Church News

August 2015



## September, October & November Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

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

### September Greeters

06 Mary Meyer & Penny Miller  
13 Richard & Barbara Mezeske  
20 Mary Mokma & Kari Miller-Fenwood  
27 Tony & Cassandra Moreno

### October Greeters

04 Larry & Karen Mulder  
11 Ron & Sandra Mulder  
18 Tom Mullens & Carol Bechtel  
25 David Myers & Jane Dickie

### November Greeters

01 Milt & Marilee Nieuwsma  
08 Dick & Norma Noordijk  
15 Greg & Kathy Olgers  
22 Bill & Judy Parr  
29 Jon & Barb Osborn

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.