



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 2

February 2016

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Inserts:

- February Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

The deadline for the March newsletter is **Monday, February 15.**

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

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The Season of Lent at Hope Church

Wandering Home

- 1st Sunday in Lent: *Led to Wander*
- 2nd Sunday in Lent: *Wandering Without Fear*
- 3rd Sunday in Lent: *Feasting and Fasting*
- 4th Sunday in Lent: *Wandering Feast*
- 5th Sunday in Lent: *Coming Home*

Did you know that John Calvin advocated for weekly communion in the church? The Lord's Supper is rarely celebrated weekly in Protestant churches, as you may know. The Worship Ministry is planning weekly communion during the Sundays in Lent as a way to express our desire for God, our yearning for God's graces. We hope that each

Sunday will renew our discipleship as the

body of Christ in receiving the sacrament. There are various aspects of communion, perhaps most traditionally perceived as penitential and as meal or feast. If you care to read more, check this link: <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/lord-s-supper-practice-in-the-reformed-and-presbyterian-tradition/>. Just as much of our liturgy and song become a part of us, we hope that the practice of feasting on Christ's body and blood will nourish and renew us as we internalize the visible means of grace. As the Worship Ministry continues to engage the congregation, please let us know how you experienced this practice of weekly communion during Lent. Come to the Feast!

Wednesday Worship Series

Nursery care will be provided.

Wednesday evenings during the first five weeks of Lent you are invited to prayer in the sanctuary. We begin with a traditional Ash Wednesday service, and then continue using the theme of a traveler's needs as well as practices gleaned from Early Worship to guide us into song, prayer, and communion.

Ash Wednesday, February 10

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Worship

Worship in the sanctuary will include scripture, music, prayer and meditation. The imposition of ashes is an ancient symbol that calls us into this season.

Come and eat!" Isaiah 55

March 2

7:00 p.m. Worship

We pray as travelers seeking *cleansing* - "in Christ there is a new creation" 2 Corinthians 5

February 17

7:00 p.m. Worship

We pray as travelers seeking *shelter* - "God will hide me in his shelter..." Ps. 27

March 9

7:00 p.m. Worship

We pray as travelers seeking *rest and strength* - "Rivers in the desert" Isaiah 43

February 24

7:00 p.m. Worship

We pray as travelers seeking *food and drink* - "Ho! Come to the waters!"

For more information on the Season of Lent, see page 2, and see the brochure that will soon be available in the Gathering Area.

Mardi Gras Celebration/ Pancake Supper Feb. 9

Mardi Gras is an exciting celebration in many parts of the world. This is traditionally a time of last chance merrymaking before the disciplines of Lent. This year we are going to spend an evening together for a time of celebration ourselves. Tuesday, February 9th from 6-7:30pm everyone (of all ages) is invited to come enjoy a pancake supper and many fun activities including a parade with bead necklaces, noise makers, masks and games for all. There will also be a time for reflection as we prepare for the season of Lent. Please sign up in the Gathering Area so that we'll be sure to have an extravagant amount of food and craft material as befitting a Mardi Gras Celebration. Come and enjoy!

Healing Prayer Service: Feb. 28

Sunday, February 28

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

There will be a healing prayer service as part of our 11:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, February 28. The liturgy at the 11am service will focus on the need for healing from God in our lives, in the lives of those we love, and in our world. During the service, there will be the opportunity for the congregation to offer prayers for healing and to receive a blessing of healing oil as a symbol of God's healing touch. If you are unable to attend and would like a particular prayer for healing to be included, please contact one of the pastors or the church office to let your prayer request be known.

Annual Congregation Meeting Highlights

From January 24, 2016

- Looking back at 2015 and forward to 2016, we reflected on what we see in our ministry that is living, dying, and rising.
- The congregation approved the 2016 Operating Budget.
- Pastoral Resident Andrew Spidahl gave a final update on his ministry as it draws to a close in March.
- Lois Maassen and Sam Martin gave an update on the Living Hope Renovations Project and Capital Campaign (*see page 5 for further updates on this project.*)

Witness to Reconciliation

Larry Mulder

Dear Hope Church friends,

I grew up in a conservative Reformed Church congregation so my conservative roots were implanted early and impacted many of my beliefs, including my disapproval of an LGBT lifestyle.

Over the years I've been a resister of many of Hope Church's moves and movements.

In the late 1960's I was shocked by Rev. Glenn Peterman, our pastor, who said that if a snake doesn't talk today, it probably didn't talk in Adam and Eve's day either—a hard truth for me but one that I now believe.

When Elsie Lamb and JoAnne Brooks traveled across our state marching

for peace and against nuclear proliferation and going to jail for it, I was the skeptical cynic. But Dave De Block believed in them and eventually, through them and him, so did I.

Later I worked hard to block the calling of our first female pastor. However, Don Luidens' voice was stronger and wiser than mine and ergo---Marty Rienstra.

Through the years God has been moving around me, over me, under me, and sometimes through me---movements that have often surprised and amazed me.

The last 6-8 months have been, for me, such a period of surprise and amazement.

For many years I've sat in pews near Doug and Dave and viewed them with disapproval. When the letter arrived this past summer from our consistory avowing its support of gay marriage I was incensed. I had been a firm anti-gay proponent all my adult life, and did not expect to change.

But then came the beginning of an amazing work of the Spirit.

We've sat in the same pews with Jane Dickie and Dave Myers for many years. I know and respect them and knew they both had a much different view of homosexuality than me. I know it was God's Spirit using them as well as the gentle prodding of the members of my small study group, and importantly, the four weeks of Hope Church's "Discerning Holy

Continued on page 3

Relationships" classes last spring. I began to change. More recently the book "A Letter to My Congregation" by Ken Wilson moved me further along my evolutionary faith path. By whatever means the Spirit used, all of these influences were effective.

I have come to understand that what

God wants from me is not merely to accept LGBT people, not just tolerate their intrusion into my life, not sit with them stony-faced in the same pew, but to embrace them, to accept them as people who love each other as much as I love Karen, and much the same way. I may not completely understand the why's and how's of their lifestyle

but I do know how I'm meant to react--with love, respect, and acceptance. This I will do for the years I have left.

Thanks be to God for his redemptive working in my life.

Thank you Hope Church, and thank you Ann for reading this letter.

Witness to Reconciliation - I was Built for Runnin' but I Dream of Flyin'

Curt L. Tofteland, Shakespeare Behind Bars Founder and Producing Director

Livin' in a world of regret begot a
lifetime of regrets livin'
on those mean streets
the geometry of wrong-turns
and dead-ends . . .

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'
a roll of the dice
snake eyes starin'
two bad choices
equal nothin' but despair

sights bin seen
horrors bin felt
etched in blood on the
walls of memory
an archeologist is needed to
crack the code of suffering . . .

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'

a prison bro say his
hood was the block
and on his block
there was nothin' but them streets . . .

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'

a prison bro say his
hood was the block
and on his block
there were sidewalks
that ran along them streets . . .

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'

a prison bro say his
hood was the block
and on his block
there were alleyways
that run along them sidewalks

that run along them streets . . .

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'

a prison bro say his
hood is the trailer park
and there ain't no sidewalks
and there ain't no alleyways
just streets . . .

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'
a roll of the dice
snake eyes starin'
two bad choices
equal nothin' but despair

a prison bro confined to a wheel chair
his left body side
paralyzed from a stroke
he look out on the world from his
right eye
his left eye is covered with a
black pirate patch
'cause cancer took it

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'

he say his only regret in life is
that when his mother died that
his hands were not 'round her throat
chokin' the life out of her for
what she did to him when he was a boy
how can a man wanna kill his mama?

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'
a roll of the dice
snake eyes starin'
two bad choices
equal nothin' but despair

a prison bro say he

been in misery for three years
his body wracked with tumors
colon rupture staff infection
blood clots and medical treatments
intended to save him
all tryin' so hard to kill him that
he almost forgot that the cancer will
'cause there ain't no cure
hundreds of thousands of dollars of
government money bin spent
to keep his body alive
just so he can die in prison
yet, no matter how much he crave
death
he cannot be the cause
yet, no matter how much he want to
lash out to make others
pay for his perceived injustices
he cannot be the cause
it makes his suffering
all the more insufferable
he pretend that he not living a
meaningless anonymous death
inside some cave
inside some cage
inside some corner
inside some prison

but that's a 'hole 'nuddah wayah livin'
a roll of the dice
snake eyes starin'
two bad choices
equal nothin' but despair

prison brothers know the
aleness-of-loneliness
waitin' for Godot
they say he comin' . . .

I was built for runnin' but I dream of
flyin'

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Ears Matter!

Earl Laman, Health Ministry Member



Why would the Health Ministry focus on "hearing and hearing loss" for five Sunday Christian Education sessions? And engage a variety of people to deal with this concern?

What's behind a series entitled, "Those Who Have Ears to Hear-- Well!" Why should we consider our ears?- if we have no hearing loss?

Why make a big deal about a natural thing like hearing? Does loss affect that many people? Isn't talk of "epidemic" rather ridiculous? Then why is there such a market for hearing aids? Don't hearing aids take away the threat of losing hearing?

What is really lost? How does it affect a person's everyday life? family? friends? work? choices? activities?

Aren't there easier ways to overcome loss? trying harder? getting a little closer? turning up the volume? asking people to speak up a bit? or repeat what they said? or stop mumbling?

Why do some hearing-loss folks limit themselves so much? just fade away? stop being social? drop out of things? break off relationships?

Aren't advanced hearing aids making a huge difference? eliminating the seriousness of hearing loss? Or do they not always help? make life more difficult? Are there other options? Is hearing loss more complicated than volume?

How come people don't want to admit hearing loss? rarely talk about it? except to joke? Isn't it just a part of getting older?

Can hearing loss be prevented? Is there such a thing as "hearing health"? What would that look like? Can we even do anything for hearing loss folks? as family or friends? as a church family? as a community?

What all is available to hearing loss folks? To those related to them?

What kind of spiritual issues or questions are buried in considering hearing loss? How does it affect faith and living out our faith? How does receptivity intersect with the physical capacity to hear?

Will it matter if I'm not aware of this stuff? Who will it affect? Is there a relationship between hearing loss and depression, and other emotional needs and disturbances? Are there aspects that the average hearer knows little or nothing about?

Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

February 7: Sue Fleming and Reconciliation Ministry - During the first half of this session, Sue Fleming will speak about her jail workshop ministry. The second half will be a summary session led by Reconciliation Ministry members. We will tie together the themes of the season with compelling issues surrounding the topics and questions to push our congregation through the rest of the year.

February 14 - March 13: Those Who Have Ears to Hear - Well!

February 14: The Wonders of Hear and Hearing Loss - Our own Dr. Dave Myers, fresh from a national address will speak on the wonders of hear and hearing loss.

February 21: There Is Hope and Help - Dr. Peter Hoekma, ENT will speak from a medical perspective and David Myers on technology.

February 28: Let's Get Real About Hearing Loss - A 6 person panel will feature Marilyn Cook, Jim Vander Woude, Earl Laman and Rich Cook, Char Laman, and Terry DeYoung - 3 with hearing loss and 3 spouses. Terry is our RCA Disabilities Coordinator & publisher of the newsletter, "Breaking Barriers".

March 6: Let's Get Practical About Hearing Loss -Dr. Karen Van Doorne, new Hope Church member, 40 years an audiologist, will lead us.

March 13: Encore: Spiritual Perspectives on Hearing- or Not! - Our own Andrew Spidahl pulls our venture together.

Washington School Neighbors

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



Washington School Neighbors

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." –African proverb

Anyone who has traveled in a group knows that making decisions can be difficult—our needs are multiplied, someone has to use the bathroom, people are hungry at different times. It's much easier, more efficient and convenient, to travel alone. I can go faster. But if we want to take the long view, to be resilient, to "go far", we realize we need each other's support.

I'm excited that our neighborhood churches are taking the long view and

working together for the strength of Washington School Neighborhood. On Feb 13, for example, four churches are working together to provide free childcare so parents in the churches and in the neighborhood can get some time off, go out on a date, or with friends, or just get three hours to themselves. I think this kind of working together will take us far as a community.

WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com

Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors

Living Hope Renovation Project Volunteer Opportunities

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

During February, the Living Hope Design Team will continue its work with the architect, interior designer, engineers, and construction managers. We've moved into the Construction Document phase, during which all plans are detailed in words and blueprints so that we're prepared to get bids from suppliers and trades. As things stand, we expect to go out to bid in early March.

Meanwhile, work has begun in some parts of the project we'd determined are better as DIY--do it yourself. These include a facelift for room 106, which will serve as a temporary office space as we juggle for construction, and consolidating, decluttering, and organizing several decades-worth of supplies, mementoes, and equipment. Watch the bulletin or online communications for details, or

contact Lois Maassen or the church office to put yourself on a volunteer mailing list.

The Living Hope Capital Campaign Team also continues its work, tracking pledges and participation, overseeing financing for our construction phase, and strategizing about closing the gap between our project cost and identified resources.

Include the Deacons' Fund in Your 2016 Giving Plan

The Board of Deacons

Hope Church members are generous people, including over \$10,000 in donations to the Deacons' Fund in 2015. However, the needs in our congregation and community do not decline, and over \$9000 of that was dispersed throughout the year.

Here are some of the ways the fund was used in 2015: gift cards for gas and groceries, temporary lodging costs, food distribution, counseling, prescriptions, rent assistance, car insurance and repairs, materials for a ramp, legal assistance, mission trip supplies, and unexpected costs of

upgrading projects at the church in New York where our High Hopes group worked this past summer.

These types of immediate needs are not always provided for in our annual budget, but the Deacons' Fund allows our pastors and staff to offer relief on a short term basis when our members or others in the community don't have other resources. It is monitored by our financial administrator and senior deacon to make sure it is used responsibly according to Hope Church ministry goals.

The Board of Deacons asks that you take note of the yellow envelopes that appear in your giving box every couple of months. The first one for 2016 is dated February 7th, but you can also give at any time of the year by writing Deacons' Fund in the memo line on your check.

Thank you for your support of this fund, and please continue to give generously. It can make the difference between hope and despair when someone faces a crisis.

Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Youth Ministry Director

What does a 55 year old miner in Lapland have in common with a 13 year old from Holland, MI? On the surface, it would seem the answer would be very little. They come from different cultures. They speak different languages. They eat different foods. And they might very well worship God using vastly different traditions. Yet the God who loves and understands the daily struggles of the miner from Lapland is the same God who loves and understands the daily struggles

of the 13 year old from Holland, MI. In Christ, these two people go from being complete strangers to brothers and sisters in the family of God.

The God who transforms "outsiders" into "insiders" was the topic of our youth retreats this past January. In between horseback riding, downhill sledding, and horse drawn wagon rides, we learned how the eclectic and even scandalous genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1 teaches us that we are connected to all of those God

created, even those who we don't like or understand. Each person is created to be unique, but not to be an island alone. Each person is created to be in relationship with each other and with God. We need the uniqueness of all in order to fully operate as the church was intended to be. One of the biggest take aways from our retreat was that we are all "one". Just as we can celebrate the ways in which we are unique, we are called to celebrate the uniqueness in others.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

As the liturgical seasons change, there are changes made in each worship center. During Lent the colors of the room are changed to a subtle purple and the songs the children sing change. Purple is the color of preparation and waiting for celebration and we are preparing for Easter. Each worship center has a

candleholder in the shape of a cross with six purple votive candles. Lent begins with all six candles lit and one candle is extinguished each week as we come nearer to the time when Jesus died on the cross. The children also share a simple feast of pretzels. The tradition is over 1,500 years old and it reminds us of the crossed arms of

early Christians at prayer. The children are given a small bag of pretzels and a copy of the special prayer said in the worship centers each week to bring home and to share the tradition with their families. The children will also be given Lenten devotions to have in their homes.

Kids Hope

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



mentoring or in our efforts to communicate within our team (prayer partner, Kids Hope child, mentor) so that others may benefit from both our successes and our struggles. This is always a time of encouragement and problem-solving for both long-time and relatively new mentors.

January was an eventful month for us. Among other things, we held our annual Kids Hope Appreciation Dinner and Workshop which is a time when all of our volunteers are invited to gather at our church for a time of fellowship and sharing. We share our Kids Hope stories over dinner and then take the time to provide tips which have been helpful in our

We also completed the first step in the process which enables many of our Vanderbilt Kids Hope students to spend a week at Camp Geneva. Thanks to many generous donors, Camp Geneva is able to provide large scholarships to Kids Hope campers who are entering grades 4-6 in the fall. We ask the parents of our Kids Hope students to provide \$50 towards

the remaining camp costs if they are able to do so and our very supportive congregation provides the rest of the necessary funds for overnight campers. Donations to our camp fund by members of the congregation also enable us to offer scholarships so that our Kids Hope children who are entering grades 2-3 can attend Day Camp.

We are so grateful that we can provide our Vanderbilt students with this chance to make new friends and grow in their spiritual commitment, sense of independence, social skills, and self-esteem. And we know we cannot do it without you. Thanks for being a part of our Hope Church Kids Hope Team and for your generous gifts, which make this opportunity to share God's love possible.

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.

Outreach and Hospitality Ministry

Dee Dee Piers, Outreach and Hospitality Ministry chair

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 Orientation to Hope Church classes and confirmation activities, Sunday greeters, production of the Hope Church News and media coverage, staffs the Welcome Center, hosts the Elders Meeting (luncheon) and New Member Reception, oversees the Church Directory Project and supports the Fellowship Committee by sponsoring one of the Pizza Sundays.

The O&H ministry coordinated the Hope Church exhibit at *Pride Festival 2015* held at Window On the Waterfront Park, and continues to support the LGBTQ (GLOBE) students

on Hope's campus by supplying snacks for their meetings.

If you would be willing to provide a snack for one of these meetings, please contact the church office. Students are *extremely* grateful for this gesture of kindness.

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry 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 newly formed **Disability Task Force** examines current issues and operates under the leadership of Elder Judy Vander Wilt.

Upcoming Events:

February 23, 2016: Hope Church will host a West Michigan Disability event, "Everybody Belongs, Everybody Serves".

Hope Church Orientation Classes: March 6, March 20, April 3

New Member's Luncheon: April 10

New Member's Reception: May 1

We would love to have you join us! Our next meeting is Monday, February 15, at 4:00, in the church library.

Ministry members are Megan Arevalo, Michael Kolk, Jean Martin, Dee Dee Piers, Jill Russell, Judy Vander Wilt and Jocelyn Van Heest. Supporting members include Trish Gosselar and Audrienne Hill.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Fellowship Ministry.

Organ Recital in Holland

Rhonda Edgington, Organist & Associate Director of Music

Rhonda Edgington will be playing a recital at St. Francis de Sales Catholic church in Holland on Friday, Feb. 13 at 7 PM. She will be joined by French horn players Greg Bassett and Lisa Honeycutt, on a piece for two horns and organ by Telemann, and one horn and organ, by Corelli.

In the solo portion of her program, Rhonda will play a combination of Baroque and modern pieces which were written for smaller instruments, and show off the lovely colors of this organ. Included in the program will be pieces by a 17th century Dutch composer - Sweelinck, a 17th century German - Buxtehude, and

a 17th century Italian composer who was also Catholic - Frescobaldi. The modern pieces are all by North American composers - Rachel Laurin, a Canadian, has written four volumes of "Twelve Short Pieces", perfect for smaller instruments. Carson Cooman and James Woodman, both Americans who live and work in Boston, have also written lovely pieces in an accessible, melodic style, using a high degree of craftsmanship and musicality. The piece by Woodman, Little Organ Mass, is based on a number of well-known Catholic chant melodies.

The small pipe organ that sits in the sanctuary at St. Francis was formerly

the teaching organ at Hope College, and was bought and moved to the church in 1998, when the college acquired a new teaching instrument. Built by the Dutch firm Pels and van Leeuwen in 1970, it was one of the first instruments in the area to be built in the style of earlier Baroque organs - in this case, 17th and 18th century Dutch Organs. Many area organists remember this as one of the first times they were able to experience some of these Baroque sounds, as organs of the mid-20th century tended towards a more romantic design and sound palate.

Events and Announcements

Christmas Offering

The total collected for both La Pouponnière and Children in Vietnam with HIV/AIDS through the Warm Hold Association was \$3,839.00. The generous support of Hope Church is much appreciated!

Circle 1 will meet Feb. 3rd, 9:30 a.m. at Freedom Village. **Circle 2** and **Circle 4** will not meet in February.

Coffee Time at Warm Friend

The next Coffee Time will be at the Warm Friend on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 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, February 17 at 1PM in the Commons. Nancy Rock will lead the discussion of ORDINARY GRACE by William Kent Krueger. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Season of Reconciliation Discussion Group - Feb. 3

Join us for the last session of this discussion group on Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 6:30-8:00 pm (light supper provided). We will have a speaker discuss the local situation of those impacted by the prison system.

Sunday Dinners - Hope Church Intern

Seminarian Intern Alyssa Anten is hoping to get to know the people of Hope Church better by having a meal together. See the sign up sheet in the gathering area to host Alyssa at your house for dinner sometime this semester!

Haiti Mission Trip April 4-11, 2016

Informational packets about this trip are available at the Welcome Station in the Gathering Area, or contact Ben Sikkink. The group will meet on Sunday, February 7, at 12:15 in the library to complete necessary paperwork and order plane tickets. The work projects that we will do will likely focus on the

new 'Forever Orphanage' that Hope Church is supporting through the Living Hope Campaign. Specific tasks will be chosen to match the physical capabilities and skill levels of the group so all are welcome. If needed, financial assistance to help pay the costs of the trip is available through the Family Mission Trip Fund of the church.

Haiti Book Discussion

Interested in Haiti? Considering a church trip this year or in the future? Worried about the continuing poverty/violence/health of Haitians? Curious about Haiti's past? Join us for a book discussion on Feb 28 at 12:15 in the Garden Lounge on the provocative novel *In Darkness* by Nick Lake. This book explores the interior life of a teenage gang member who is pinned under the rubble, while also chronicling experiences of the Haitian leader of their fight for independence. The discussion will be lead by Pat Bloem. The book is available for purchase in the gathering area (\$8 for used copies; \$10 for new). Please come, even if you don't finish it. Suggested for ages 16 and older.

Family Screening of "Inside Out"

The Health Ministry presents a family screening of the movie "Inside Out" on Sunday, February 28 at 12:15 PM in Room 106 during Pizza Sunday. Families will view the film together as a follow up to the "Ways to Help Children Face and Overcome Fear" workshop that took place on Jan. 25. All families are encouraged to attend regardless of whether they attended the previous workshop.

Restorative Circle Facilitator Training: Feb. 4th & 5th, 9am-4pm

This two day training is for anyone who is eager to support the creation of strong communities, families, and work environments. You will learn how to communicate and collaborate during times of conflict or even just around different points of view. You

will develop skills that can be put to practice immediately in informal ways and will also learn how to facilitate a formal restorative circle as well. For more information and to register go to <https://hrcircles.wordpress.com/> or call the church office at 392-7947.

Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH)

Friday, Feb. 5, 5 pm: "A Heart to Heart Community Celebration" potluck and cultural sharing party with music, activities, delicious food, silent auction, more. Everyone is welcome! Invite friends, neighbors, co-workers. (616) 886-4758 or (616) 396-2201. At First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10th St, Holland.

Blood Drive - Feb. 7

The next blood drive will be held at FUMC on Sunday Feb. 7 from 8:30 am - 2:15 pm. As always walk-ins are welcome.

Sharing the Harvest: Sustainable Gardening and Canning

Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore presents "Sharing the Harvest: Sustainable Gardening and Canning" as part of a educational series. The event will take place Monday, February 22 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the Herrick District Library Auditorium.

Ottawa County Parks Opportunities

Weekly NaturE-mail: Don't miss what's happening at the Nature Education Center! Sign up online (to <http://www.miottawa.org/parks/>) to receive a weekly email with program opportunities happening in Ottawa County Parks. Look for "Stay Connected with Ottawa County" near the top of the page and enter your email address. Visit the Ottawa County Parks - Program and Events Calendar online for event details/registration. Call the Nature Education Center for more information: 616-786-4847.

Brim Bunch - February 25

Brim Bunch will meet on February 25th at 6:00 pm. Steve Hemingway who wrote the book, "The Life and Letters of Paul Fried" will be the presenter of the program. Paul came to Hope College, a recent emigrant from Prague by way of England. Because of the Jewish ancestry of Fried's family, his two brothers, his father and his mother died in the concentration camps of Germany's Third Reich. After Paul's sophomore year he joined the U.S. Army where he served in the Intelligence Corps. In 1945 he returned to college and after graduation proceeded to Harvard University where he received his MA degree. Then he was invited to serve as a translator for the Nuremberg War Trials.

He earned a doctorate at Erlangen University. In 1953 he returned to Hope College and joined Hope Church. He chaired the History Department and initiated the Vienna Summer School program. He retired in 1984.

Hear about Paul Fried's very interesting and productive life. The menu for the dinner is chicken and rice, a green salad, rolls and cherry dessert. Pay \$8 at the door. It is helpful to make reservations when phoned or call Marilyn Cook. You are never too young to join us - bring a friend. The bus will run from Freedom Village and Warm Friend.

Thank You

*Dear Hope Church brothers and sisters in Christ,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thanks so much for your prayers and support for us! Emmanuel, God is with us! ~Rode and Endrias Molla*

*Dear Hope Church friends,
Thank you for making my Christmas very special. Many, many thanks to those who visited, and those who baked delicious cookies, and those who sent the lovely cards. I cherish your thoughtful messages. The beautiful poinsettia made my room perfect! It was such fun for me to be with you. What a special way to celebrate Christmas. I have missed you all and hope to be part of your fellowship again soon. ~Abby Price*

I was reminded of Christiana Rosetti's poem, "Love came down at Christmas", when "Love" came to my room at Resthaven in the voices, hands, and feet of carolers bringing lovely gifts of cards, a poinsettia, and delicious cookies. Thanks so much to the Hope Church community for the many ways you shared that Holy Season with me. Thank you also for the weekly bulletin and the lovely coffee times! ~Stan Rock

*The Hopkins Family would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy on the death of Clarence. It is hard to lose a loved one and more so just before the holidays. Knowing that our Hope Church family was there for us was a great comfort and made the transition of not having Clarence around go a lot easier. Thanks to everyone,
~Eleanor, Kurt, Sharon, Mark and Linda Hopkins*

A huge thank you to: Duane Kooyers, David Hawley-Lowry, Ben Sikkink, Leon Knoll, David De Block, Jim Vander Woude, Julie Clough and Mark Baron for their hard work in installing our new hymnal racks in the sanctuary. We are now able to have both of our new hymnals available in the pews!

Because of you, the Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Service was an absolute success. Because of you, we were able to make and distribute more hygiene kits than we expected to make. Because of you, Dr. King's vision of harnessing the power of volunteering and service to transform our communities was realized in a greater way. Simply put, thank you for your contribution to the success of that day. The Kingdom Comes...Because of You.

Thank You, ~Rev. Denise Kingdom Grier, Maple Avenue Ministries

SPECIAL JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

25 Winifred Hollenbach
Care Group 10
Winnie turned 104 on Jan. 25!

28 Dorothy Robinson
Dorothy turned 103 on Jan. 28!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

13 Kay MacKenzie
Care Group 3

20 Suzanne Buteyn
Care Group 1

24 Ruth Donaldson
Care Group 8

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

USA/Mexico Border "Encuentro 2016"

Andrew Spidahl, Hope & Grace: College and 20/30s Ministry Co-Chair



When asked about her work in Calcutta, Mother Teresa would often reply, "Come and see!"

It's an invitation to an encounter. An invitation to move beyond notions, ideas, theories -- what remains abstract -- and have an encounter with a real place, real people, in real time. This is what Christian and I hoped our trip to the Texas / Tamaulipas border would be for the eight participants and ourselves over the first week in January: a real encounter with people and places at the border that might have the power to transform.

When we arrived in Harlingen, Texas, we were welcomed into St. Alban's Episcopal Church, given a place to sleep and some fresh-picked citrus to enjoy as we settled into the week ahead. The accommodations were basic, but new and nice. We slept on air mattresses in a large student lounge area that included a kitchen, right next to a gymnasium, and the bathrooms each had two roomy showers.

The morning after we arrived, we gathered in the chapel for some introductory words and opening prayer. We found out that our church backgrounds were quite varied, including Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Reformed, and Episcopal, and our faith engagements also at different levels--which made this an ecumenical and spiritual encounter just within our group!

One of the great blessings of this trip was to have Aaron and Sarah along, a couple connected to Grace who were deeply passionate about Mexican history and immigration issues. Aaron teaches Mexican history at Hope College and Sarah is an attorney who has started a nonprofit immigration office here in Holland called Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates (and just received an award for her work from Holland's Human Relations Commission). Both of them are fluent in Spanish and are talented educators, as well as full of good questions. They helped facilitate many of our encounters and greatly enriched our discussions.

In particular, I remember Sarah passionately and thoughtfully questioning a second-career priest whose previous work was with the Department of Homeland Security, and our group processing after. I also remember Aaron on our night across the border in Matamoros, standing in the small chapel at the

church where we stayed, translating Christian's sermon into Spanish for the local congregants; and later, after tamales, carrying a conversation with the two priests who hosted us while he translated for our benefit.

Another of my favorite memories from the week was when I opened the door to the room we were staying and walked into a musical. Some of the girls were snuggled in their sleeping bags for warmth, singing their hearts out and laughing together. I was pleased at how our group came together as friends.

We had so many encounters, large and small, but the one that stood out for me personally was our tour of the contemporary art museum in Matamoros, Mexico. I encountered my personal bias that Matamoros would not have a museum that could compare to any of ours in art, culture, creativity, and presentation. However, I was brought to amazement and humility when in perfect English our tour guide led us through immaculate exhibits while explaining the nuances of Betsabee Romaro's beautiful work featuring themes on immigrants. I saw--beauty and insight in the other, and unfair perception in myself--and I was changed.



Continued on page 11



This week of encounter brought challenge and blessing, and not least of all new friendship. I believe we were all changed. Two of the Hope students are already making plans to go back and volunteer for a few weeks with the nuns come spring! And I

pray that each of our transformations will continue; as we hear immigration issues discussed we now have names and faces and places to inform our ideas. And I pray that these will grow in us empathy, compassion, and temperance as we speak with confidence and humility about our border, about immigration, and about a better world.

"Everybody Belongs, Everybody Serves" Workshop: Feb. 23

Judy VanderWilt, Disability Concerns Taskforce

Are you looking for ways to support the needs of all persons within your congregation? If so, plan to attend a workshop event which will provide ways in which your church can support its work for and with persons with disabilities. This event will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Hope Church, 77 West 11th Street, Holland, MI.

Attendees will be able to attend 2 of the 4 workshops (a or b and c or d) which will be offered:

a. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): By the Letter or by the Heart, led by David VanDoorne, Disability Specialist, Hope College.

b. Supporting Persons Suffering from Depression and Anxiety, led by Rich Gritter, Gail Poll, and Rebecca Wassink,

team leaders for a mental health support group at Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Holland, MI.

c. Meeting the Needs of Children and Youth with Disabilities, led by Dr. Ben Conner, Director of Western Theological Seminary's Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry.

d. Meeting the Needs of Older Persons and Persons Requiring Long-Term Care, led by Rev. Mark Stephenson, Director, Disability Concerns, CRCNA.

This event is sponsored by west Michigan Disability Advocates from the RCA and CRCNA. There is no cost for attending this event.

and finally "...on a personal note"

It has been a privilege to be able to share some thoughts with the congregation via the back page of this newsletter for these last couple years. As I mentioned at the annual meeting in January, I am grateful for how Hope Church has nurtured my spiritual and ministerial development by creating new space for me. I have served as an intern through Western Seminary, as support staff when Gordon was on sabbatical, and now through this two-year pastoral resident position. I went from being ambivalent about joining a church at the beginning, to becoming a member at Hope, and finally to being ordained this past summer as an RCA minister.

A French professor in college used to say about language learning, "It's like climbing a mountain. Each step can feel difficult at times, and it's hard to know if you're making any progress – until you turn around and see the valley spreading out behind you." I believe this analogy can be applied to our spiritual pilgrimage as well, when we take a moment to reflect how far we've come in different ways.

Hope Church nurtured me along the way, and at the same time has challenged me to be bold, and to be particular. That is, to fully engage with people where I am, with active faith in love, humility, and joy. As I receive this challenge, I would like to reflect it back:

"Hope Church, be bold as you continue to pioneer in this community and world. Listen well. Scatter seeds in faith, without needing to control the outcome. And let love and humility be your touchstones as you rejoice in the Lord always."

I hope we can both live into this challenge!

Kallie and I are members of Hope Church, so we will continue to share life together with this congregation, even as we look towards what's next with neighborhood work and beyond. I look forward to how God continues to use Hope Church to shape others as we pioneer in this millennium.

Thank you!
~Andrew Spidahl



Hope Church News

February 2016



March, April & May Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet for the next three months (**Please note: the schedule for the entire year is also now posted** on a "Greeter Schedule" poster in the gathering area):

March Greeters

06 Jocelyn Yost & Kyle Vohlken
13 Kevin & Kim Rosenau
20 Lou & Deb Schakel
27 Will & Lisa Walker

April Greeters

03 John Schmidt & Dawn Boelkins
10 Dave & Barb Schmitt
17 Beverly Schoch & Dorothy
Sherburne
24 Jane & Larry Schuyler

May Greeters

01 Kathy Sheridan
08 Ben Sikkink
15 Randy & Jill Smit
22 Jan Smith
29 Paul & Loretta Smith

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. If you prefer to have a member of the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry assign a substitute greeter, contact the office. ***If you are willing to volunteer as a substitute greeter or greet more often than once a year, please contact the office.***



HOPE CHURCH

February 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 12 pm Communications Taskforce 5 pm Executive Committee 7 pm Community	2	3 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 5:45 pm Carillon Choir 6:30 pm Discussion Group 7 pm Chancel Choir	4 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6:30 Health 7 pm Reconciliation 7 pm 20/30s at Grace <div>Restorative Circle Training 9 am - 4 pm</div>	5	6 8:30 am Fish Club Pancakes R Us
7 Season of Reconciliation 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Alyssa Anten</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults), 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 pm Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Youth Sunday</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Sunday School 12:15 pm High Hopes Sky Zone 12:15 pm Haiti Mission Trip Meeting	8 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory & Congregational Care	9 10:30 am Coffee Time at Warm Friend 6 pm Mardi Gras Celebration /Pancake Supper	10 Ash Wednesday 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	11 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Personnel 7 pm 20/30s at Hope	12	13
14 First Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Andrew Spidahl</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults), 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship	15 4 pm Outreach & Hospitality	16	17 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 2 pm Living Hope Design 5:45 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm Lent Worship Series	18 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm 20/30s at Grace	19	20
21 Second Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults), 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Sunday School 12:15 pm Fish Club Sky Zone 6 pm High Hopes Unplugged	22 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Christian Education 7:30 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	23 7 pm Disability Concerns Workshop	24 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Lent Worship Series	25 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm 20/30s at Grace	26	27
28 Third Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Karmen Kooyers</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults), 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> - Healing Prayer Service 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:15 pm Family Screening of "Inside Out" 12:15 pm Haiti Presentation	29					