



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 3

March 2016

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### Inserts:

- March Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

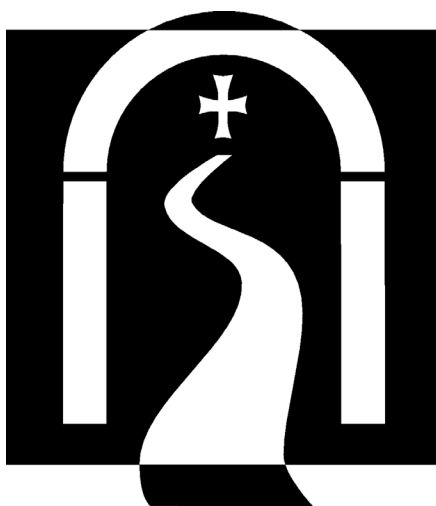
The deadline for the April newsletter is **Monday, March 21.**

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



## The Season of Lent



## Wednesday Worship Series

Hope Church will continue offering Wednesday evening worship services through the first five weeks of the season of Lent. We 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. Child care is provided.

### March 2 - 7:00 p.m. Worship

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

### March 9 - 7:00 p.m. Worship

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

## Worship During Holy Week

### Palm Sunday, March 20

#### 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Palm Sunday Celebration

**11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration**  
We begin the journey through Holy Week with a Palm Sunday processional, liturgy, preaching, communion, and song.

includes communion, prayer, scripture and music.

### Good Friday, March 25

#### 12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service

Hosted at New Community Fourth Reformed Church and co-sponsored by Hope Church, First United Methodist Church, Third Reformed Church, and the Washington School Neighborhood Connector.

### Maundy Thursday, March 24

#### 6:00 p.m. Family Seder Dinner

This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office (392-7947).

#### 7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)

The service follows the path of Jesus' passion through the Last Supper and

### Easter Sunday, March 27

#### 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

#### 9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch

#### 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Celebrate the Risen Lord! Pastor Jill Russell, preaching, and Pastor Gordon Wiersma, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder. Church School will not be held.

## Lenten Retreat - Hope & Grace: College and 20/30s Ministry

Andrew Spidahl

Relax. Eat good food. Focus on Lent. Spend time in silence. Meditation. Contemplative prayer.

You are invited to join us for a Lenten Retreat in Three Rivers, MI on **March 4-5**. We will spend time reflecting on the purpose of Lent and practicing prayer and silence. For \$25 you will receive guidance, a sacred space to unwind and delicious, real food.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact Rev. Andrew Spidahl, Fr. Christian Baron, or Jensine Waller (junior at Hope College). Rides and scholarships are available.

We will meet at 5 pm on Friday, March 4 at Grace Episcopal Church (pick up from Hope College also available). We will head home at about 7 pm on Saturday, March 5.

## Compassionate Connection

Randy Smit, Hope Church Elder

Compassionate Connection presents...**Blood, Water and Fire - Art Response 3.0: Evoke, Explore, Express.**

"... an eye that sees, a soul that feels, and hands that obey."  
~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Acts of terror. Environmental extremes. A degenerating politics.

From every side, we are caught up in the woundedness of the world. And its healing. We think and talk ourselves to death, to sleep, to no avail... sometimes. It's then that we can turn to each other and ask: Is there another way... To express ourselves? To understand each other? Our world? A mysterious, engaging Spirit, present and at work?

What if we could gather together in the presence of the Spirit... discern a theme, a voice, a way of the world... that calls for our shared and unalloyed heart-response. There's plenty of pain to go around, and fear... also plenty of possibilities and hope.

What if the place to meet was Art? What if it was where we met each other as human beings and fellow travelers, where we met the random, frightening or unresolvable

moments of our shared human story? What might we come up with? Where could it take us through Lent, Easter tide and Pentecost?

March 19 – April 23 – May 21... All are welcome... Watch for further details about this evolving spiritual practice... Much to try, much to discover. A suggested donation of \$30 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies and facilitation resource.

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Compassionate Connection also presents a blog by Hope Church member and elder Randy Smit:

Going Places

Tending the Entries, with Randy Smit

**tendingtheentries.blogspot.com - note the new and updated link!**

Compassionate Connection is a ministry directed by Randy Smit that functions under the auspices of Hope Church. It is a ministry of renewal offering pathways of practice to deeper empathy and creativity. For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Compassionate-Connection-Ministry-505409932889624/>

## Living Hope Becoming a Reality

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

During the month of March, construction documents will go out to suppliers and contractors for bids on all aspects of the project! This is a real milestone in months of work by the Design Team and our partners from Elevate Studio and Elzinga & Volkers. Construction will begin in earnest in April.

And work is already underway!

Volunteers led by Ben Sikkink have been working in Room 106, sprucing it up for interim use as construction requires relocations. The improvements will also make the room more useful, as a creative arts space, when the project is complete. Megan Arevalo is also working with volunteers and staff to declutter and reorganize, so that we have space to store what's important through the

construction phases.

If you're willing to pitch in, now's the time to make yourself known! There's an online sign-up via the [LivingHopeRCA.Wordpress.com](http://LivingHopeRCA.Wordpress.com) website, or contact Lois Maassen or the church office. Let us know your particular skills or interests, and we'll connect as opportunities arise.

## Witness to Reconciliation

Jake Stryker, Hope Church member

Last summer, I was finishing my shift at the restaurant I worked at, when I started getting multiple frantic text messages. Apparently, my cousin Audrey, who was a Senior counselor at Camp Sunshine, saw my name on the counselor list. I was supposed to be there at 7 the next morning, and I had completely forgotten about it (for those of you who know me, this shouldn't come as a surprise). I rushed home, packed my bags, and got some rest for the 2 hour car ride in the morning. I was excited, but I really had no idea what to expect. I figured I would just be there to help out, and I didn't realize that this experience was about to have such an amazing impact on my life.

I was paired with a 7th grader named Jake. At Camp Sunshine, a counselor is paired one on one with a camper. You literally spend the entire week with your camper. You share meals together, do activities, and spend the night in cabins. When I was there, there were probably close to 40 or so campers. Me and Jake quickly became known throughout camp as Jake Squared. When he first got there, Jake was extremely shy, but after some basketball, we became fast friends.

I learned a lot when I got to know Jake. One of the first things I learned is how easy happiness came to him. I thought that was really beautiful. He taught me to just be happy. After spending a week there, more often than not you realize there is more to be happy about than there is to be sad about. There is happiness in sinking a basketball into a net. There is happiness in dancing, and not caring whether you're any good or not. There's happiness in a good friend's smile. And happiness is usually a whole lot easier than anger and sadness. Happiness feels good.

Happiness, however, was not all that was on Jake's mind. As a 7th grader, Jake was smitten by an older female counselor. Unfortunately, Jake came to realize this relationship would not be able to happen. This was kind of hard for him. He seemed to think that girls wouldn't like him because of his disabilities. This sadness proved to get the best of a young man, who up until that point, had only showed happiness and excitement. During this experience, I learned what it felt like to truly be there for another person. It took a lot of conversation with him to help him to realize that he was a fantastic person, and that even though

this lone, 25 year old camp counselor wouldn't return his affection, he still had a lot of time left on this planet, and a whole lot more fish in the sea. I learned that when you take your mind off of the things that are hurting you, you can still have a great time at Camp Sunshine.

Through late night dance sessions, more basketball, a few flawless talent show performances, and time with people who really care about you, broken hearts and sad memories can be mended. They stay with you, but you tend to eventually overcome and learn from them. Deciding to be a Camp Sunshine counselor opened up a chance for me to see that in Jake's life and to see that for myself too. Reconciliation often means understanding our flaws, learning to live with them, and eventually coming to appreciate our blessings, rather than focusing on our imperfections. Just have fun, be happy, and don't dwell on things you can't change.

*Jake Stryker is a junior at West Ottawa High School.*

## Washington School Neighbors

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



### Washington School Neighbors

I was recently in conversation with some folks about the upcoming election and the polarized nature of our country's politics. A sociologist among us was explaining that with

our increasing ability to self-select our company and our news sources, and tailor them to our preferences, we find it increasingly rare that people in different camps interact. Furthermore, studies have shown that being surrounded only by folks who share one's opinions tends to facilitate enactment of more radical ideas.

What will be the outcome of this isolation? Is there a way to counteract this trend? How do we face the juggernaut of social polarization?

One way is to start where we are with what we have. Our neighborhoods, at least here in the central city, are diverse enough in opinion. Washington School Neighbors is one organization that is seeking ways to bring neighbors together based on shared geography, not political opinions. And I am grateful that our churches have agreed that this is an important effort—for neighbors to love neighbors through efforts of hospitality and care.

## Witness to Reconciliation

John Koch, Reconciliation Ministry chair

Just Love. This phrase's meaning has evolved for me. I have been involved in the criminal justice field in the past 15 years in almost every aspect. I started as a corrections officer in my early 20s, and then transitioned to a prosecutor, then defense attorney. For the past five years I have worked as a therapist working almost exclusively with men and women in the criminal justice system.

I started out my adult life believing that love, respect, dignity, etc. were things that needed to be earned or justified. This fit my upbringing in rural South Dakota and farm-family values. Everything is earned whether good things or bad.

I have been given an opportunity to work with the treatment court system in Michigan. First in the drug treatment court system and now currently in the Veterans Treatment Court system. I work with men and women who have volunteered to be part of an intensively supervised probation program for 18 months with the purpose of surrounding a small subset of people with treatment options and accountability to those options.

When we first began the program in Muskegon, we had 8 men, 6 of whom had attempted suicide within the 2 years prior to entering the court. For 3 of them the crime that brought them to the treatment court was directly related to their suicide attempt. One of my greatest joys in this program is that none of those men attempted much less completed a suicide since joining the court. Six have graduated, one did not complete the program, and one was killed in a traffic accident.

I am always drawn back to the story of one gentleman who had had three previous suicide attempts. He is a chronic alcoholic who struggles with PTSD and a severe back injury. From the first time that we met and for the next 12 months, every conversation would contain the question, "Why do you care?" He asked this to his probation officer, his mentor, the judge, the chaplain, myself, and all those involved in the court. For months, I would give him the answers that felt most right in my heart; "because we share a bond as Soldiers", "because you deserve to have us care" and so on.

After many ups and downs with sobriety and relapse, this gentleman found the longest stretch of sober-living in his adult life, which was 3 months. It was during this time that his attitude changed, but so did mine. When we had discussions and the question "Why do you care?" inevitably came up, instead of searching for an answer, I simply said, "I do care because I do care." I realized that I was searching for the ways that he had earned my caring either through his previous good deeds or through enough suffering. However, when I simply loved him because I loved him with no preconditions or justifications, I was as free as he was. As we have continued to work together over the past few months, the question that has been a staple of our relationship does not come up anymore.

I am seeing the true value of the reconciliation for him and for me, for a criminal justice system that can truly care about a small group of men and women, and for all of the people that have and will be effected by the men and women who graduate from this program. It is not about a just love that is earned but instead it is Just Love that allows the rebuilding of lives.

## Adult Education: March

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

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

NOW HEAR THIS: The Hearing Loss series has two more sessions in March:

**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.

**March 20: Missionary Activities for More Than a Century in Martinpur, Pakistan**

Hope Church member Sam Martin will talk about how his great-grandparents became Presbyterian missionaries and how that led to the founding of the village of Martinpur in 1898 in the Punjab region of what is now Pakistan. He will also share information about the present situation in Martinpur and some of his experiences during a recent visit to Pakistan, including what he was told about the living and working conditions of Christians in this Islamic republic.

**March 27: No Adult Education class**



# Hope Church and Children in Vietnam

Dan Fisher, Hope Church member



In January of this year, I made my annual visit to Vietnam. This time I brought along my kid sister, Rose, who lives in Omaha. Our purpose was to work on a project I have been involved with since 2007, in support of orphaned children with HIV/AIDS.

I am fortunate to work with a team of 25 wonderful volunteers in Vietnam who have a passion for improving the lives of children in very desperate situations. We now work with over 100 children in 3 provinces. Our team is called "The Warm Hold Association."

We believe that it is a better situation if the child can live with and be raised by a caretaker (preferably a relative) rather than go to an orphanage or other institution. This provides the best chance for the child to live a more normal family life, and helps those



who love and care for the child. So it becomes critical that we address the needs of not only the child, but of the caretakers and the whole family, as their lives are interwoven.

Each child and family has a different set of issues and these issues will change over time. The Warm Hold Team members exercise care, creativity and resourcefulness in addressing critical issues like:

- **Health:** Support for regular medical treatment and testing including overcoming transportation barriers. Also counseling on safe & proper HIV practices.
- **Economic Stability:** Provide transitional support when the caretaker has no home or insufficient income as they take on a new child. Help caretakers develop or improve their situation and capability to support themselves and the child or children.
- **Nutrition:** Provide food security, especially when caretakers are unable to work.
- **Education:** Address educational needs when the child is kicked out of school because of discrimination, or taken out of school by their caretaker to earn money for the family.
- **Safe Environment:** Identify areas of neglect, exploitation or abuse. Help provide a living environment where child is protected, safe and cared for.
- **Emotional Support:** Provide counseling, peer networks, entertainment; social activities and home care for children.

During our visit, we spent a lot of time in rural and impoverished areas. I was very excited to see results of our activities in 2015. We built 3 new homes, and had successes in all

the categories listed above. At the same time, I am overwhelmed with how many issues there are and the magnitude of the work that needs to be done. I'm inspired to work harder than ever, as I know our work is making a significant impact on the lives of so many people. People who would otherwise have little hope.

I'd like to thank Hope Church and its members for the generous donation to this project through the 2015 Christmas offering. And for all who sponsored my daughter Elyse and I during our ½ marathon run in September. The Warm Hold Team in Vietnam is keenly aware of and appreciates the ongoing support they get from Hope Church and its members. The results of your kindness and care are reflected in each of the children we work with, and we look at Hope Church as an important part of the Warm Hold Association Team.

Please go to our website to see more about our January Vietnam visit at: [www.danfishervn.wordpress.com](http://www.danfishervn.wordpress.com)

Thanks for your ongoing encouragement and support.

Peace to all,  
Dan



## Special Event Notification Text Reminders

Communications Taskforce

Would you like to receive texts about Hope Church cancellations, service time changes, and special events? It's easy to sign up for this new service! Simply text "@hoperca" to the number: 81010. If you decide you would no longer like to receive these texts, you can easily opt back out at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @hoperca'.

If you would like to receive the notifications via email rather than

text, you can sign up by sending an email to: [hoperca@mail.remind.com](mailto:hoperca@mail.remind.com). Alternatively, you can also go to this website to sign up for this new service: <https://www.remind.com/join/hoperca>.

Please note a few important details:

-The texting service (called "Remind") uses the language of "classes" for groups, because it's mainly used by teachers.

-If you respond to any sent text message, your text will only go to the Hope Church office, not to everyone who was texted.



## Children's Ministry: Family Time Together

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

On Friday, March 11 from 5:30 – 8:00pm, you are invited to come for an evening of game playing with other families. Bring your favorite games to share or try a new game. Adults may like to play some games together too. Play together, talk together, eat together and get to know the other families better. A light dinner and snacks will be

provided whenever you arrive, so come and spend some time with us when you are able. Come enjoy a fun filled evening. Sign up in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office.

Note: There is no church school on March 27, Easter.

## Kids Hope: Settling Into a New Partnership

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



Last September, we announced a new partnership with Third Reformed Church and in the months since then, we have occasionally been asked, "How's it going?" That being the case, we thought it was time to give all of you a report.

Beginning with the recruitment process, we have been working with Third Church Director Beverley Rannow to coordinate the work we do at Vanderbilt. Together we worked through the referrals which the teachers provided and assigned students to available mentors from

both churches. At the present time, we have 13 mentors from each church working in the building, each of whom is supported by prayer partners, substitute mentors and the directors from their own church.

Thanks to Beverley's skills as a trained librarian, the books, games, art supplies and other materials we keep at Vanderbilt have been expanded and organized in a manner that makes it easier for mentors and substitute mentors to use them. Beverley has also created a bulletin board located in a prominent place in the school with pictures of each mentor with their student as well as the three directors. You can imagine how much the students love seeing themselves as they pass that spot several times a day.

In January, we hosted a joint Kids Hope Appreciation Dinner and Workshop

at our church. Thirty-five were in attendance with approximately equal numbers from each church. Those who were there have spoken enthusiastically about the experience of interacting with their counterparts from a partner church while sharing a meal together.

Together, we look forward to our next joint gathering, the end of the year party where in the presence of students and their families as well as Vanderbilt teachers and staff, we will celebrate the special attributes and characteristics of each student. Third Reformed will be hosting that event this year.

We are grateful for the growth we have experienced during this first year of partnership and look forward to many more years of working with the members of Third Reformed to offer the hope of a better future to the at-risk children of Vanderbilt.

# 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.*

## Fellowship Ministry

Joyce Teusink, Fellowship Ministry member

Do you ever wonder who's in charge of Pizza Sunday, Soup Suppers, and Coed Softball? All of these activities fall under the umbrella of the Fellowship Ministry. The Fellowship Ministry tries to incorporate activities for the congregation, offering opportunities for fellowship and also providing the background for spiritual growth. Some of the events we sponsor are treasured traditions in our spiritual lives, such as the Maundy Thursday Seder which will be held on March 24. This dinner is a highlight for many families connecting with the traditions of old. We also sponsor the Easter Brunch (March 27) which is a wonderful celebration of our Lord's resurrection!

Some other activities we host are the Kick-Off Picnic in the fall, Advent Activities in December, Congregational Meeting luncheon, Lenten Activities and the Easter Brunch in the spring, Coed Softball and Cranhill Camping in the Summer, and Pizza Sunday at the end of every month! Watch for the sign-up sheets and get involved this year! We hope you use these opportunities to get to know other members of the congregation.

With all of the events we host, we are always looking for volunteers to help with set-up, preparation of food, and clean up. If you have a special event you would like to help with, just contact any

of our members. (You could also join our team, and help with all of them!)

Our current Fellowship Ministry Team consists of Megan Arevalo, Kristine Bradfield, Cathy Green, Kurt Hopkins, Kate Mears (Welcome to our newest member!), Marilee Nieuswsma (chairperson), Rick Smith, Joyce Teusink, and Sally Winchester. We would like to thank Kris Witkowski for her years of service and hope she enjoys her retirement!

Come and join us for Hope Church Fellowship!

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

## How Is Your Sabbath?

Ginger Clark, Parish Nurse, R.N.

### BRINGING YOUR LIFE BACK TO BALANCE

Sabbath is drawing away one day a week from anything related to productivity- from work, roles, from labor. The Hebrew meaning of the word Sabbath (Shabbat) is "cessation of work" or "rest". One day a week set aside your work, errands, chores, volunteering and JUST REST, PLAY and BE! This can be any day of the week, half day or whatever works for yourself and family.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

God gave us a wonderful example in Genesis. He had a WOW day- the seventh day of creation he just sat back, marveled and rested from all His work (Genesis 2:2-3). It is one of God's special commandments (Exodus 20:8-11). Jesus pulled away from crowds many times throughout his ministry with days to rest (Mark 6:31). He encouraged his followers to do the same.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SABBATH?

Spiritually, there is a deeper awareness of God's love, the blessings He gives us and the Joy and Peace we gain from allowing ourselves to focus on the important things.

Psychologically, we are able to declutter and gain mental clearing. We can then re-evaluate our priorities and just listen to guidance from God. Our minds become more clear-more productive and creative.

Emotionally, we can diminish the depression and anxieties of life that we struggle with daily. We cultivate and strengthen our relationships and work from a more peaceful place. Our joy for life is nourished. Our life is brought into balance.

Physically, we can identify stressors that affect us: tension, back pain,

elevated blood pressure, headaches, joint pains and address solutions for improved health.

### HOW TO PLAN AND CARRY OUT SABBATH

Ask yourself and family these questions: How long will the Sabbath be? When will it begin? How will we start the Sabbath- a time of silence, prayer, a song? Will it be the same day every week? Will we do individual times, family times or a combination? Will there be prayers or devotions or other traditions?

Whatever your personal Sabbath plans are you will reap the benefits of God's mercy, grace and renewal! Begin your plans today for a fuller journey to health!

RESOURCES: Foundations of Faith Community Nursing and Church Health Reader Fall 2013



## Events and Announcements

**Circle 1** will meet March 2nd at 9:30 a.m. with Circle 2 for coffee in Commons II, and then will meet in the Hope Church library. **Circle 2** will meet March 2nd at 9:30 am in Commons II at Hope Church. **Circle 4** will meet in the Garden Lounge on Wednesday, March 9, (after the Lenten Service) at 7:45 PM.

### Coffee Time at Freedom Village

The next Coffee Time will be at Freedom Village on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

### Hope Church Readers

Readers will meet on Wednesday, March 16, at 1 PM in the Commons. **READING THE BIBLE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME** BY MARCUS BORG is our March selection. Libby Hillegonds will lead the discussion of this thought provoking book. Guests and new members are welcome.

### Orientation to Hope Church Class

On Sunday, March 6 at 9:40 a.m., an Orientation to Hope Church Class will begin for people who are interested in learning more about Hope Church. The class will meet on three Sunday mornings, March 6, March 20, and April 3 at 9:40 a.m. in the Garden Lounge. A meal and a meeting with the Board of

Elders for those wishing to join Hope Church will occur on April 10 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Public reception of new members will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on May 1. Please contact one of the pastors or the church office for more information. Please know that attending the class only indicates your possible interest in joining our fellowship, not your actual decision to do so.

### Daylight Savings: March 13

Daylight savings begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Remember to turn your clocks forward an hour!

### Easter Offering

Celebrate new life in Christ with a life-giving donation to the Deacons' Fund on Easter Sunday, March 27. Your generous gift allows us to share the hope of the resurrected Christ with people in our church and community who have short term needs. Use the special Easter Offering envelope or write Deacons' Fund on your check memo line.

### Church Office Closed: March 28

The Church office will be closed Monday, March 28 as an Easter Holiday.

### Haiti Mission Trip Cancelled

Due to an insufficient number of people being able to travel at the planned time, the April mission trip to Haiti has been cancelled. Please keep the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty in your prayers as they work to improve the lives of the Haitian people. On February 15 the police brought them another baby that had been found abandoned in the trash. Please pray for the country as a whole as well while they are in the midst of a volatile presidential election process. While the group trip will not be happening, I will be traveling there myself from April 10-16 to work with another carpenter on various repair projects to help the ministry of HFAP. Prayers for that trip are also appreciated. ~Ben Sikkink

### Parents Book Discussion

Sunday mornings at 9:40am on April 17, May 1, May 15, and May 22 Pastor Jill will lead a discussion of the book The Whole Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson. Stop by the table in the gathering area beginning mid-March to pick up the book and sign up to participate.

## Online Directory Launch

Our online photo directory is now up and running! All information is password-protected and secure. To access the directory log-in page, visit our website at [hopechurchrca.org](http://hopechurchrca.org) and click on "Members" at the top right. You can also go to this direct link: <http://www.connections.lifetouch.com/?orgLogin=21972>. Each member should soon be receiving their specific username and password by mail, and if you provided an email address, by email.

If you signed up to "opt out" of the online directory at your photo session, your profile is hidden and cannot be viewed by other members. However,

you will still be able to log in and view others' profiles. Anyone can choose to hide or unhide info in their profile at any time by going to "My Profile", clicking on "Edit", and then clicking on the check marks next to the contact information to hide certain information (unchecked means it is hidden).

If you do not receive your username and password by mail or email, simply go to the log in page and click "forgotten username or password". The system will prompt you to enter your email address and will send the information to you in an email.

Once you log in for the first time,

you can update both your username and password to something you will remember. Just click on "My Profile" and then "Edit" to change your information on the lower left side of the screen. Be sure to click on "Save" at the bottom of the screen.

You can also update your family's contact info at any time when you have changes.

If you have any questions about using the site you can click on "User Help" at the bottom right of the screen for a user guide. Please contact the office if you have any further questions!



## Thank You

Here are two Thank You's that are belated on Hope Church's part - apologies!

*Dear Friends at Hope Church,  
In the midst of a very busy time, I could enjoy a beautiful poinsettia and opening numerous cards. It was a true reminder of the real meaning of Christmas. I appreciate it so very much.  
~Betty Hilldore*

*What a surprise! We had more than 20 Hope Church people in our tiny apartment. All to wish us a Merry Christmas. You brought a big poinsettia, cookies, and all of your cards. We were overwhelmed! Thank you - especially from Alice. It perked her up a mile.  
~Jim and Alice Hinkamp*

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*Dear Friends in Christ,  
Once again, THANK YOU so much for your generosity!! It was very much appreciated! We are BLESSED to be a part of the Hope Church Family!  
~Love, Ric, Beth, and Azaila*

*What a pleasure it was to have the carolers visit me at my assisted living home. The voices were all so professional and beautiful! I appreciate the gifts of cards, poinsettia, and cookies and the thoughtfulness of those who gave them.  
~Ruth Green*

*I am very thankful for everyone who helped me move in January. I really appreciated it.  
~Kate Mears*

*On behalf of the Pouponnière Orphanage, I'd like to thank you for the assistance given through Mrs. Germaine. Your generosity will support our organization to feed and take care of the babies and to make some repairs including painting. Each year, more than 100 children pass through the "Pouponnière" to be taken care of and fed during their first year of life, and because of your help we can continue to make this work. We pray God bless you and your families and give your work success and prosperity.  
~ Pouponnière Orphanage in Dakar, Senegal*

*It is February 17 as I write this. I have come home from a morning meeting and there are good lunch materials in the refrigerator, a warm house, and things in the house to enable me to do what needs to get done. At the Walk for Warmth table on February 7, someone asked how it was that I was involved in this. Early in public health nursing experience, at that time in Ottawa County, I was in contact with a refugee family. The mother, in a moment of discouragement, had wrapped herself in the gauzy curtains which were hung in the drafty, cold house they were able to rent – and heat was low because she struggled to meet the rent, food and other needs for her young family. There were other different but similar contacts. When, in 2008, someone asked if I would help with the Walk for Warmth, those images were still clear in my mind and I 'was hooked.' I am so grateful for support from Hope members, for how Hope manages the funds it receives, and for all the things that Hope does to encourage us to be conscious of need. \$845 was raised this year and this will help many families. Thank you so much.  
~Norma Killilea*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 05 | Nancy VandeWater<br>Care Group: 2 |
| 05 | Marjorie French<br>Care Group: 5  |
| 06 | Barbara Bingham<br>Care Group: 1  |
| 10 | JoAnne Brooks<br>Care Group: 12   |
| 14 | Terry VandeWater<br>Care Group: 2 |
| 16 | Duncan McCune<br>Care Group: 5    |
| 17 | Bette Williams<br>Care Group: 3   |
| 18 | Ruth Vrieling<br>Care Group: 4    |
| 18 | Jim Hinkamp<br>Care Group 5       |

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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)

## 2015 Report to Mission Engaged Churches

Jane and Rowland Van Es, Hope Church Missionaries

**OVERALL GOAL:** Theological Education, Christian Higher Education

**Tell us about your Mission Partner and how they believe your mission work has impacted their ministry and the lives of the people they served this past year.**

St. Paul's has been training people to "serve God and humanity" since 1903. It became a fully chartered Private Christian University in 2007. The University is jointly owned and operated by the Anglican Church of Kenya, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Methodist Church of Kenya, the Reformed Church of East Africa, and the National Council of Churches of Kenya. As Mission Co-workers Rowland and Jane have served St. Paul's in a variety of ways. In addition to teaching in the Faculties of Business and Theology, Rowland has had close supervision of students who are training for ministry in the Reformed Church of East Africa. He has also played a key role in the University's Quality Assurance Committee which reviews current standards and the curriculums of the various academic programs. In addition to teaching in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Theology, Jane has fulfilled several administrative tasks which help in the smooth running of the university including timetabling of classes and administration of exams. She also enjoys mentoring students outside of the classroom setting and working with her Kenyan colleagues to improve the new faculty of Social Sciences.

**Describe how an engaged congregation's involvement and prayers enhances this ministry and what are some of the other ways a church can be effective and supportive.**

While we enjoy living and working in Kenya, being so far away from our two

children and our parents is not easy. We are sustained by your prayers. Living on campus as the only non-Kenyan full time staff means that we have the opportunity for cross-cultural engagement with students and staff at all times. We need your prayers to keep us focused on being good Christian witnesses to everyone. Churches can also support students with scholarships and/or with books & Bibles through the RCA. St. Paul's also provides a good setting for learning about the wider work of the church in Africa and we would welcome visits from congregation members. We have hosted college and seminary groups too.

**Share a story about a life directly impacted and/or transformed by your ministry with our partner.**

We have taught and trained hundreds of students over the years. One that really stands out is Jeremiah who got his Bachelor of Divinity here, then got a Masters in Counseling. It has been a joy to see how his gifts of working with children and for listening to people and visiting them have been growing through his studies. We were both privileged to teach him and get to know him through Denominational Studies and by visiting his church and home.

He is taking the opportunities he was given and the new skills he has gained to be used in service to those who are facing poverty and other difficulties. He is now working in a local church in a rough part of Nairobi and helping them with Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. He also helps people with special needs. He recently helped someone confined to a wheel chair to get a scholarship to begin studying photo journalism at St Paul's University.

**How are new leaders being prepared**

**and nurtured in hopes of empowering our Mission Partner to grow and become more self-sufficient?**

As a growing University, St Paul's is always recruiting and training more staff to teach new students in new programs in new campuses. We have both played a variety of roles and served on a variety of committees and taught a variety of classes to help out where needed. Some of our former students are now our teaching colleagues or work in the administration of the university. In addition, our students who go out to serve the church and society are also strengthening the leadership capacity of our broader partners (all the churches that own and operate St. Paul's).

**Share how you are directly involved in preparing a leader who might succeed you in the future?**

The Kenyan government has recently declared that all university faculty members must have their PhDs. Our being here has allowed several of our colleagues to get their doctorates. By teaching their classes we have allowed them to take a sabbatical and do research for their doctorates.

**Help us to understand how we can continue to be in prayer for you, your family, our Mission Partner and the people of God.**

Pray for us personally, that we remain inspired to teach and give witness to a well-balanced Christian life. We are thankful that our daughter Michelle is coping with her medical condition (POTS) and has been able to enroll at Hope College. Pray for continued strength for her as she studies and adjusts to life in the U.S. and at university. We are also grateful that our older daughter Jenna has finished college. Pray that she may find a sense of direction and discern what is next for her.

*continued on page 11*

*continued from page 10*

We have leadership roles in four different fellowship groups. Pray that all involved in these groups will experience a deeper connection to their faith. Pray for us and all the other staff that we continue to be committed to the vision of St Paul's University: "A University of academic excellence based on Christian principles producing graduates in various fields for global service."

As St. Paul's grows and expands pray for all those who are implementing new programs on our three new campuses. Also pray for students. For our mature students (most in Theology) the cost of following their calling into ministry is leaving their families at home while they study. In other programs, we have many students who are not yet Christians or who are still trying to figure out how to live out their Christian faith.

Kenya is a growing country with some growing pains: There is uncertainty, corruption, and insecurity. Pray that God's will would be done here in the economy, the politics, and also in education. Thankfully the majority of the population is Christian, pray that they will actively live out their faith and be role models for others. Pray for Christian-Muslim relations as Kenya faces terrorist threats from extremist groups like Al Shabaab.

## *and finally*

March is an unusual time of the year for a farewell in church program year time, but the end of this month will mark the conclusion of Andrew Spidahl's Pastoral Residency at Hope Church. But more than a farewell this month, it is a chance to say Thank You to Andrew. Through May, Andrew will be continuing some leadership with our 20/30 Ministry, but I didn't want to let this opportunity pass to express gratitude to Andrew for his ministry among us during this 2-year residency.

It has actually been the last 5 years that Andrew has been serving in some staff capacity at Hope Church, as he first came to Hope Church as a Seminary Intern and then staffed several areas of ministry during my sabbatical in Fall 2013. It has been a unique experience in ministry for me to be a part of Andrew's life as a mentor, colleague and friend as he has gone from student to ordained minister while serving at Hope Church. I have been grateful for the blessing and commitment Andrew has given this place as he has responded to his call to ordained ministry, and as we have seen his life so wonderfully enriched too in meeting and marrying Kallie Espumante Spidahl.

I have seen Andrew serve well in a number of different capacities in his time at Hope Church, from leadership in worship to teaching youth to organizing neighborhood events, and Andrew and I have spent a lot of time together particularly on Fish Club Appalachian Trail hikes and High Hopes trips which I have enjoyed immensely with Andrew. But what has remained consistent in Andrew in all of the roles he has carried out at Hope Church, is his passion for justice, his compassion for people, his heart for worship and his kindness to all. Even as I have been in the role of a mentor for Andrew, he has been a teacher to me in these qualities that reflect the fruits of the Spirit and work in and through his life. I have been blessed to learn from the way Andrew cares for those who are on the margins in obvious or subtle ways and the way that he brings us as a faith community to be at the margins, both being Christ to and seeing Christ in others.

Andrew has brought many gifts to Hope Church, and he has opened himself to the many faithful people and ministries that have influenced him during this formative time in his life, and in that mutual blessing he has been a person of God's grace among us. Thank you, Andrew. God bless you and Kallie together in a faithful path ahead.

Peace,  
~Pastor Gordon

P.S. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 24**, for an official Thank You time for Andrew!



# Hope Church News

March 2016



## Don't Just Think Hope

Community Ministry

Let's **Build** Hope! Recognizing the many ways in which our facility supports our community, the Community Ministry has designated the Living Hope Capital Campaign Fund as the beneficiary of this year's Think Hope silent auction event. This year's Build Hope will help to fund improvements to the Commons, which is used by the Holland Audubon, Camera Club, the Ladies' Literary Club, Kids Hope, and more--in addition to Hope Church groups!

**The date is set: Reserve April 30 to join us to Build Hope.** We're putting

dinner back on the table, along with an evening's entertainment. **You can start now to craft or collect your donations to the silent auction!** To inspire you, past-year items that reflect the creativity and talents of our members have been knitted scarves, hand-sewn grocery bags, original artwork, cakes and pies, ethnic dinners, and babysitting and carpentry services.

Watch for more communications about ticket sales and logistics for delivering your contribution! And plan to join us for a celebration of our members, their gifts, and the

ways in which our buildings can be a gift to our community.





# March 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|  |   |   |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
|  |   | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>6:15 am Men's Breakfast<br>9:30 am Circle 1<br>9:30 am Circle 2<br>2 pm Living Hope Design<br>5:45 pm Carillon Choir<br>7 pm Lent Worship Series<br>7:45 pm Chancel Choir | <b>3</b><br>1:30 pm FLEX<br>2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse<br>6:30 Health<br>7 pm 20/30s at Hope<br>7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym) | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>8:30 am High Hopes Pancakes R Us<br>8:30 am Room 106 Work |
| <b>6 Fourth Sunday of Lent</b><br>8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i><br>9:40 am Church School (children, adults)<br>9:40 am Chancel Choir<br>9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church<br>10:45 pm Nursery<br>11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i><br>11:15 am Children in Worship<br>11:15 am 6th & 7th Sunday School<br>4:15 pm Jubilate Choir<br>6 pm Fish Club  | <b>7</b><br>5 pm Executive Committee<br>6 pm Room 106 Work<br>6:15 pm Stewardship and Finance<br>7 pm Community | <b>8</b><br>10:30 am Coffee Time at Freedom Village | <b>9</b><br>6:15 am Men's Breakfast<br>7 pm Lent Worship Series<br>7:45 pm Circle 4   | <b>10</b><br>1:30 pm FLEX<br>7 pm Personnel<br>7 pm 20/30s at Hope<br>7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)                         | <b>11</b><br>5:30 pm Family Time Together Game Night   | <b>12</b><br>G.I.F.T. Class Trip to Heartside Ministries              |
| <b>13 Fifth Sunday of Lent</b><br>8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Andrew Spidahl</i><br>9:40 am Church School (children, adults)<br>9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered<br>9:40 am Chancel Choir<br>10:45 am Nursery<br>11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i><br>11:15 am Children in Worship<br>1 pm 20/30 Steering Force<br>4:15 pm Jubilate Choir<br>6 pm High Hopes Unplugged | <b>14</b><br>11 am REST Support Group<br>7 pm Consistory & Board of Elders and Deacons                          | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b><br>6:15 am Men's Breakfast<br>12 pm Building & Grounds<br>1 pm Readers<br>5:45 pm Carillon Choir<br>7 pm Chancel Choir  | <b>17</b><br>1:30 pm FLEX<br>2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse<br>7 pm 20/30s at Grace<br>7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)              | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>Compassionate Connection Art Response                    |
| <b>20 Palm Sunday</b><br>8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Alyssa Anten</i><br>9:40 am Church School (children, adults)<br>9:40 am Chancel Choir<br>9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church<br>10:45 am Nursery<br>11 am Worship, <i>Andrew Spidahl</i><br>11:15 am Children in Worship<br>11:15 am 6th & 7th Sunday School<br>4:15 pm Jubilate Choir<br>6 pm Fish Club         | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b><br>6:15 am Men's Breakfast  | <b>24 Maundy Thursday</b><br>1:30 pm FLEX<br>2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse<br>6:00 Seder Potluck Dinner<br>7:45 Tenebrae Service          | <b>25 Good Friday</b><br>12:10 pm Good Friday Service @ New Community Fourth Reformed Church | <b>26</b>   |
| <b>27 Easter</b><br>8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Andrew Spidahl</i><br>9:40 am Easter Brunch<br>9:40 am Chancel Choir<br>10:45 am Nursery<br>11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i><br>11:15 am Children in Worship   | <b>28</b><br>Church Office Closed<br><br>11 am REST Support Group   | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b><br>6:15 am Men's Breakfast  | <b>31</b><br>1:30 pm FLEX<br>2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse<br>7 pm 20/30s at Hope<br>7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)               |  |   |