



## Living Hope Renovations Update Letter Enclosed

# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 5

May 2016

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#### Inserts:

- *May Calendar*
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The deadline for the June/July newsletter is **Wednesday, May 18.**

#### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:

9:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: Closed

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## Staff Departures

### Personnel Committee

We will say goodbye to several staff members at the end of May. We have appreciated each of them and their service to Hope Church, and will dearly miss their contributions in these roles.

**Andrew Spidahl:** Andrew has been the Pastoral Resident at Hope Church for the past two years. Before that, he served as seminary intern since 2010. We will thank Andrew at a reception after the 10 AM service on June 5.



**Kathy and Jim Brownson:** Kathy and Jim have been the Early Worship Music Coordinators since 1998. We will thank Kathy and Jim at a reception after the 11 AM service on May 22.

**Anne Duinkerken:** Anne was the Kids Hope co-director for five years (since 2011), and has been involved in Kids Hope since its beginning at Hope Church. We expressed our thanks to Anne for her service at the April 27 Kids Hope event.



## Kids Hope: Thank You, Anne Duinkerken

Barbara Joldersma, Kids Hope USA Co-Director

On April 27, as we celebrated the end of our 13th year of mentoring at Vanderbilt Charter Academy, our new partnership with Third Reformed Church, and the gifts of each of our students, we also expressed our appreciation and thanks for the many years of service Co-Director Anne Duinkerken has given to Hope Church Kids Hope. Anne was there at the beginning and has remained actively involved in this ministry throughout its 13 years of existence.

Last spring when her last KH child "graduated" from our program, Anne decided to continue as co-director and rather than take on a new student, become a substitute mentor. However as the year progressed and her work at Benjamin's Hope and number of grandchildren increased (she's up to six!), Anne began to feel that it was time to end her leadership role in this ministry.

As her partner for these last 5 years, I can only say that I will miss her many,

many contributions to our work together. As Anne has often said, this program is "dear to her heart" and as a result she has put her whole heart and soul into it throughout the time she has been involved.

As a team Anne and her Prayer Partner Eloise Van Heest changed the lives of Lizette, Ines, Michael, Aaliyah and Angelica. She also made a difference in the lives of many more Kids Hope students as she assumed a leadership role and became a partner in the training and support of mentors which is so vital to the health of this program.

Through her efforts, we have all been blessed and so it is with a great deal of gratitude that we

thank Anne for all that she has meant in the lives of the students and staff at Vanderbilt, the Hope Church Kids Hope volunteers and the congregation as a whole. Anne has truly been, as Kids Hope founder Vernon Gulker used to say, "Jesus with skin on" sharing His love with all of us.



*Prayer Partner Eloise Van Heest and Mentor Anne Duinkerken celebrate their last Kids Hope student's "graduation" at the 2015 End-of-Year Party.*

## Introducing Vicki Rumpsa, New Kids Hope USA Co-Director

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Co-Director



I am very excited to be the new co-director for Kids Hope. I have been a

Kids Hope mentor to "Ale" for the past 4 1/2 years and my experience with this quality program and mentorship has been very positive. When the co-directorship became available I jumped right at the opportunity as I saw it as a perfect fit for someone like me who was looking for some way I could work part-time with children and use my many years of experience. Previous to this job I worked for 35 years in childcare with jobs ranging from home daycare to running a full youth and camp program for an Athletic Club in Grand Rapids. When I came to Holland I worked for awhile at the Boys and Girls Club and then semi-retired and finished with 2 years working for the Ottawa County Parks that tapped into my other strong

interest, the out-of-doors.

Currently I am a Deacon at Hope Church and serve on the Congregational Care Ministry. My interests include reading about history, hiking the beaches of Lake Michigan, camping, and spending time with my 9 Grandchildren. I am a graduate of Hope College ('74), mother of 3 wonderful children, Scott, Josh, and Kellyn and if I have the chance, I love to play tennis and golf. I have been a member of the Reformed Church since my childhood and daily praise the Lord for all the times he has walked with me during the good times and through the tough times. God is faithful and I look forward to serving him through this opportunity of Kids Hope leadership at Hope Church.



## Bread for the World: Letter Writing May 1

Tom Arendshorst



We of Hope Church are a Bread for the World covenant church. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice, moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Each year Bread for the World urges elected leaders in Washington, D.C. to enable people in our nation and our world to feed their families and move out of poverty. Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters campaigns are part of our goal to end hunger by 2030.

Our efforts can make a big difference. Even in this age of digital technology, studies show that hand-written letters are still one of the best ways to reach members of Congress. Even a personal signature on a page has power.

Each year Bread for the World, through its own ongoing research and in consultation with its partners, chooses a specific hunger issue for its Offering of Letters campaign.

Last year we sent letters asking our Congresspersons to cosponsor the Global Food Security Act and make Feed the Future legislation

permanent, improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, strengthening maternal and child nutrition, and building capacity for long-term growth. On April 12 the House of Representatives passed the Global Food Security Act, 370 - 33, with bipartisan support, bringing food security and nutrition for millions of people across the world one big step closer. Now the Senate should act swiftly to pass the bill.

In 2016 Bread for the World has three priorities. First, Bread wants Congress to increase funding for the nutrition and health of mothers, newborns, and young children. Bread and its partners believe that U.S. funding for nutrition in the global health account must be raised from \$115 million to \$230 million in 2016. Increasing U.S. investment in global maternal and child nutrition is central to successful development and helps improve the potential of millions of people.

Second, Bread advises that Congress improve the efficiency and effect of foreign food aid by enacting reforms, especially ending what is called "monetization" of aid, that will allow lifesaving assistance to reach millions more people each year without costing taxpayers more.

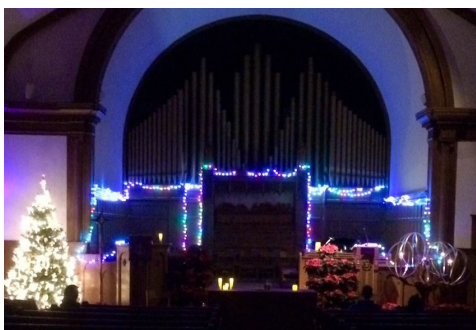
Third, overly harsh and long prison sentences in the United States together with the lack of inmate rehabilitative programs, exacerbate hunger, poverty, and existing inequalities. Bread for the World asks us to urge our Representatives and Senators to reform our criminal justice system and end mass incarceration in 2016.

Hunger is not a partisan issue. Bread for the World works with our nation's leaders — whoever they may be — in a bipartisan manner. Election years like 2016 provide excellent opportunities to raise the issues of hunger and poverty to candidates seeking election. Elections are times to re-assess how our common resources — our taxpayer dollars — are being used and what the role of our government should be. 64 out of every 100 polled voters consider ending hunger to be one of the most important priorities for the U.S. government. This year, we can elect leaders who will pass laws, fund programs, and create policy to put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030.

Join us before and after the service on **Sunday, May 1** to write letters to Congress.

## Late Night Music and Lights Part 2! - May 1

Rhonda Edgington, Associate Director of Music and Organist



If you missed Hope Church (and Holland's) first ever Late Night Music and Lights Organ Concert, because you're usually in bed by midnight, you have a chance to see what you missed. On **Sunday, May 1, at 9:30pm**, we will hold another Late Night Music and Lights event. Rhonda will play fun and non-traditional organ music,

there will be a very different feel in the sanctuary, with some funky lighting, and we'll have snacks afterwards in the gathering area. The music will last 30 minutes, and the audience is welcome to sit, stand, lie, or move where they like to best appreciate the experience. Hope to see you there!

## 2015 Yearly Report to Supporting Churches

Dave and Char Alexander, Hope Church missionaries in Taiwan

**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.**

Our work has helped the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan to identify with the people of this land, as we testify to the presence and work of Jesus Christ in our lives, our schools, and in society at large. We continue to be affirmed in our work by people we meet in churches and at the schools we serve, and by those schools and the church's request that we be reappointed for a further 3 years and granting us time away from Taiwan for home assignment in the USA. As the Church adds congregations and members, we are fully active participants. We are physical and visible testimony to partnership and cooperation.

**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.**

Congregations of the RCA have supported our work in many ways since we began here in 1982, extending lives of faithful witness in their own communities by reaching half-way around the world to touch our students, co-workers and communities across the Pacific Ocean. A church wanting deeper involvement could subscribe to our newsletter at [www.tinyletter.com/DavidAlexander](http://www.tinyletter.com/DavidAlexander) and use the stories we regularly post there in a newsletter, or bulletin or on a bulletin board. These stories might help a local congregation to imagine and enact new ways to pray for people, schools and churches in Taiwan that they learn about through those stories and updates. A church's website editor could choose new stories regularly to update their own site's content, and those who lead congregational prayers

at worship could use items mentioned about Taiwan to broaden the scope of what a congregation in North America prays about.

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

As Char's semester at Chang Jung Christian University drew to its conclusion, many students striving to complete their "free-talk" requirements sought her out for a conversation. Among them was a woman we'll call "R". She transferred into Chang Jung from another university last Spring, so she lacks the close personal relations with classmates that others who have been there from the start have naturally.

At the end of their regular "free-talk" conversation, she got personal. "R" told Char that she is seriously considering becoming a Christian, but has reservations based on family concerns. Having attended church only a few times, all by herself she began to "believe in God" sometime during high school. She is the only child of divorced parents. She lives with her mother when at home, and with her aunt, who has a house near the university, during school term. In both households, adherence to Taiwanese folk religion is the way things go.

"R" is not currently in a church, but reads her Bible and prays before bed every night. She feels that a regular involvement in a church, especially if and when it leads to baptism, will cause problems at home. Char encouraged her to consider trying out one of the Christian fellowship groups on campus and promised to connect her to a few other students with similar faith stories. They'll continue to be in touch during our home assignment this coming spring.

**How are new leaders being prepared and nurtured in hopes of empowering our Mission Partner to grow and become more self-sufficient?**

Three students in Dave's "Write your Personal Catechism" course at Tainan Theological College made final presentations early in January. Because more and more of what is done in 21st Century churches involves use of technology, Dave required that projects be presented using a computer and projector. When one had problems, Dave asked how a minister should plan for computer problems. Suggestions from students included always being set at least 24 hours in advance to allow for things to go wrong and get corrected before any meeting starts.

As they used computers, too many students showed "black words on whitescreens". Dave pushed for power-point. Those who had never done that before have to learn how. The student who was most enthusiastic about this method was appointed to help the classmates who don't know how.

Dave was impressed with the visual creativity used in presentations, how much students had progressed in understandings of their own faith, and how well they were learning to articulate it.

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

Not all mission positions result in training a replacement. Char's job at Chang Jung Christian University requires a native speaker of English, something that can't be "trained." What she seeks to exemplify to the school is the value of having a native speaker who is and works as a Christian while doing the job she does.

Dave is filling a position that will

*continued on page 5*

be replaced when faculty-in-development return from their studies overseas, some in the UK, others in America. Their preparations will enable them to fill the empty spot that will exist in Tainan Theological College's language center, practical theology and translation fields when our current 3-year term as missionaries ends in 2018.

**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 as we are on home assignment in the US and Canada from February 1 through August 19, visiting churches and renewing relationships. Pray for us as we return to Taiwan in August, that we find a better work/life balance than we had in our 2012-2015 term of service. Pray for our family making happy transitions, our daughter Kate moving into a university teaching job, our son Grant getting married this year. Pray for Chang Jung Christian University as

it faces an increasingly competitive market in seeking students, and ministers to those who choose it from among many alternatives. Pray for the students of Tainan Theological College who struggle to balance academic and field education requirements as they grow in faith. Pray for the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, striving to live a socially and evangelically relevant witness in a land where 96% of the people do not yet confess Christ as Lord.

## Caring for Creation Prepares for E-Waste Recycling Event - May 21

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

The Holland BPW is hosting an electronics waste recycling collection on Saturday, May 21, at the Holland BPW building at 625 Hastings Avenue, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be rebates for large working appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers. Small electronics will be accepted as well. Hope Church will provide volunteers for the events and will receive a \$.04/pound stipend for all the pounds of electronics received.

In 2008, the Caring for Creation ministry teamed up with Comprenew and West Michigan Creation Care to host the first of these electronics recycling events. It took place in the parking lot of Hope Church. Peter Boogaart, the ministry chair at the time, didn't know what sort of turn out to expect. If you were around, you know that turn out was huge! So huge that they couldn't haul everything away that day and had to put a pile of TVs in the Gathering Area on a Sunday.

The annual event quickly outgrew our parking lot and gained new partners like the BPW, Consumer's Energy, and other churches like Grace Church. The event moved to the parking lot of the BPW building and help had to be hired to move all the large appliances people brought in.

Unfortunately, not all the changes were positive. In 2014, a state law requiring manufacturers to subsidize the take back of cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs and monitors was phased out. This forced recyclers like Comprenew to charge people for recycling CRTs. In recent months, prices in the commodity market have dropped to point that many items now require a fee for recycling.

Because of this, the 2016 recycling event was almost not able to accept small electronics. Fortunately, Herman Miller generously offered to cover the costs of recycling so that small electronics could still be received.

You can help with this event in several ways. First, **volunteers are needed** to help unload electronics at the event. Second, come and recycle your old electronics. Lastly, I encourage you to contact your elected state representatives and tell them to increase support for electronics recycling.

### Other Upcoming Caring for Creation Opportunities

**May 6** at Hemlock Crossing County Park from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Native Plant Sale hosted by the Ottawa Conservation District

**May 7** at Harbor Island in Grand Haven from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Ottawa County Grand River Cleanup hosted by West MI Environmental Action Council

**May 14** at 709 Pine Avenue at 10 a.m. (\$10) - Bio-Intensive Gardening Workshop by 8th Day Farm

**May 15-21** - Green Commute Week organized by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council with the support of many local businesses and organizations: walk, bike, carpool, or ride transit to work, church, and errands

**May 21-28** - Native Plant Sale hosted by Degraaf Nature Center

**June 4** at 709 Pine Avenue at 10 a.m. (\$10) - Holland Backyard Chicken Tour by 8th Day Farm

**July 9** at Windmill Island Gardens from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - 2016 Macatawa Water Festival hosted by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council and Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway

**July 16** at 709 Pine Avenue at 10 a.m. (\$10) - Bee-keeping Basics Workshop by 8th Day Farm

**August 20** at 709 Pine Avenue at 10 a.m. (\$10) - Communal Canning 101 Workshop by 8th Day Farm

**September 17** at 709 Pine Avenue at 10 a.m. (\$10) - An introduction to Aquaponics by 8th Day Farm

**September 24** at Window on the Waterfront from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - 10th Anniversary Fall Macatawa River Cleanup hosted by the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway

# 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.*

## Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry

Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry

The Worship, Prayer and Spirituality ministry focuses on the creation and maintenance of a worshipful environment for the family of Hope Church. This is done visually through weekly pulpit flowers, through seasonal banners, through carefully planned music, and through the celebration of communion and other special days such as Pentecost, All Saints' Day, etc.

The Music ministry of the church is supported by this group which includes the Chancel Choir, the Carillon Choir, and seasonal children's and youth choirs. This ministry is also responsible for the radio ministry to the community and for making worship service CDs available, upon request.

The ministry acts as a sounding board through which the congregation can convey their desires and wishes concerning the joy or troubles they experience upon coming together in worship. This ministry also works to develop the church as a praying community. This is done through a

variety of activities including adult education classes throughout the year that explore different aspects of prayer, visual displays during special time in the church year, such as Lent, to provide a more focused call to prayer and spiritual discipline, the provision of literature to guide daily prayer and devotions, and retreat opportunities.

The Worship Ministry serves to educate and nurture the faith of worshippers, and we also strive to make our worship (and liturgy, "the work of the people") congruent with who we are, so that our expressions of worship align with who we are in this time and place. Having integrity with respect to worship means knowing those who come to worship, as well as knowing the liturgy, art, music, scriptures, and language that help to articulate our speech and singing, praying and silence.

Over a year ago, we introduced two new hymnals for congregational singing. During one of the church school classes about the hymnals,

participants were asked to write down their 2 favorite hymns, and I said I'd let people know the results.

The participants at the particular education time last year listed 40 different hymns. This reflects a lovely diversity and richness of hymnody, as the list includes some ancient hymns and some very new hymns.

The top selection in this nonscientific survey was: Great is Thy Faithfulness. The next most frequently noted hymns were these: Amazing Grace; A Mighty Fortress; O God, Our Help in Ages Past; and Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.

Perhaps another survey would be helpful after more experience with our hymnals. More importantly, though, is the dynamic of learning what hymns and other expressions of faith help us in the worship of our faithful, amazing, and loving God.

Please help us continue the dialogue about what aspects of worship are helpful and meaningful to you.

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Congregational Care Ministry.*

## Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Youth Ministry Director

It's here! That effervescent and hope-filled time of year when the flowers bud, the orange-bellied robin makes his return, the buzz of honeybees tickle your ears, and you pull out your hiking boots from the back of the closet to make sure they still fit. Well, at least that is a spring ritual when you are a Fish Clubber.

Over the next couple of months, both youth groups will be engaged in activities to prepare for their

respective trips this summer. On April 24, Fish Club celebrated their kick off for Appalachian Trail training, by walking the CROP walk. During Tulip Time, High Hopes will be raising money for our work trip out east by managing our parking lot for tourists during the parade. We are so excited not only for these actual traditional trips, but for the anticipation and team building we foster by engaging in fund raising and training.

We would love your help in preparing! Please consider signing up for a Tulip Time parking slot, as we need help in staffing the parking lot. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering area. And believe it or not, we still have apple pies for sale! If you have a hankering for some pie, consider purchasing one for \$12. See Beth or stop by the office to pick one up. Until then, happy gardening!



# Washington School Neighbors

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



## Washington School Neighbors

*"God's basic method of communicating God's self is not the 'saved' individual, the rightly informed believer, or even personal careers in ministry, but the journey and bonding process that God initiates in community: in marriages,*

*families, tribes, nations, events, scientists, and churches who are seeking to participate in God's love, maybe without even consciously knowing it."*

-Richard Rohr, OSF

Washington School Neighbors is not a Christian ministry. But it was born and is still supported in the context of different church congregations working together for the good of our shared neighborhood. This summer several churches are seeking to partner along with WSN in "Neighborhood Serve" June 15-18, four days of service

projects and learning right here in Washington School Neighborhood. We'd love as much variety of participation as possible. If you'd like to learn more or be involved, you can contact the WSN Connector Andrew Spidahl.

Richard Rohr may express in the quote above what you believe as a person of faith – that people can participate in God's love in community without even knowing it, and that this is the best way to know God.

[WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com](http://WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com)

[Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors](https://Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors)

## Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

**Prayer PALS: Prayers Always Lovingly Said**

**On Sunday, May 8, we will celebrate the Children's Sabbath**, a day when we as a congregation promise to nurture and pray in support of the children of Hope Church as well as those children with special concerns around the world. We want to celebrate all children on this Sunday and each day that follows.

The congregation will have the opportunity to select names of children to support and pray for in the coming year. The names of all the children in each family will be included

on the Prayer PALS sheet.

Along with the names there are some suggestions and more information about how you can make a meaningful connection to those children through prayer and/or involvement with the family. The sheets will be distributed during the worship services on May 8 and they will also be available in the Gathering Area for a few weeks after the Children's Sabbath. We will also provide cards that may be sent to the family to introduce yourself to them.

Our children are an important and valuable part of our congregation as

they share their joy and energy with each of us and we celebrate them.

*Please note: the 4th and 5th graders will take part in the 11 a.m. service.*

### Church School/ Children in Worship

May 22nd is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The following week, May 29, children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will be meeting together in Room 204, upstairs in the Education Wing, when they are released from the 10 a.m. service. The teachers, worship leaders and children all had a very wonderful year together.

## Appreciation Reception for our Teachers, Youth Leaders and Children and Worship Leaders - Sunday, May 22

This year the Christian Education Ministry will host a Teacher Appreciation reception after the 11:00 a.m. service on May 22nd. After pizza lunch, we hope that everyone will extend their sincere thanks to those who have taught and lead our adults, youth and children with a creative, faithful and willing spirit. All leaders, teachers, youth interns and music leaders will be honored for their service

to Hope Church. Hope Church values our educational opportunities and we ask everyone to stay for this short reception to share in the celebration. There will be cake!

**Thank you sentiments** – One way to show our thanks is to sign or write a short note on the banner that is available in the Gathering Area on the Sundays prior to the reception. There

will be a list of each Children in Worship leader, Church School teacher, music leader, and youth leader and you may write a word of appreciation to them individually or as a whole. Please spend a few minutes to show your support and appreciation. Of course you may thank them in person at the reception or send a personal note to them.

## Events and Announcements

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Circle 1** will meet May 4th, 9:30 AM at the home of Sally Farabee.

**Circle 2** will meet May 4th at 9:30 am in Commons II at Hope Church.

**Circle 4** will meet on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 pm. Judi Boogaart will host the meeting and Nancy Rock will lead the discussion on Lesson 7.

### Coffee Time at Warm Friend

This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. The next Coffee Time will be at the Warm Friend on Wednesday, May 18, 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 in Commons II on Wednesday, May 18 at 1PM. **CROSSING TO SAFETY** by Wallace Stegner will be our book for discussion which will be led by Audrienne Hill. Guests and visitors are welcome.

### Easter Offering

Thank you for your generous response to the Easter Offering. Our Easter offering total was \$4,525.00, which was designated for the Deacon's Fund.

### Parents Book Discussion Continues

Sunday mornings at **9:30am** on May 1, May 15, and May 22

Pastor Jill will continue 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.

### Art Response: May 21

Compassionate Connection presents **Blood, Water and Fire - Art Response 3.0: Evoke, Explore, Express**. All are welcome. This final session will be held from 10 am - 12 pm in the Hope Church Commons. **Please sign up on the sign up sheet in the gathering area.** You can also contact Randy Smit with any questions. A suggested donation of \$30 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies and facilitation resource.

### Consistory Members Elected

At an April 24 congregational meeting, the following new Consistory members were elected:

DEACONS: Josh Beard; Tom Bultman; Becky Derrick; Lise Topp

ELDERS: David Blauw; Barb Knoops; Wendy Rebhan; Fred VanDoornik

The new Consistory members will be ordained and installed on Sunday, June 5, and will begin their service on Consistory in June. Thanks be to God for this gifted group of leaders to serve the ministry of Hope Church.

### Attention Graduates!

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

### Summer Worship Times

On **Sunday, May 29**, the summer worship time will change to **10:00 a.m.** Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in Room 204 after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

### Authentic Haitian Dinner

The Haiti Foundation Against Poverty will be holding a fundraising dinner and auction on May 4 at the Neland Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids. The food will be prepared by Myslene, the head cook at their Port-au-Prince compound. The cost is \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Email or call Ben Sikkink if you would like to be part of a Hope Church table. More information is posted in the Gathering Area.

### Summit on Race and Inclusion

Registration is open for the May 17, 2016, Summit on Race and Inclusion, "Inclusion in Action." The event will be held from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Hope College. Registration fee of \$50 includes morning and afternoon keynote speeches, a breakout session, panel discussion, and refreshments and lunch. To register for the Summit online, please visit [www.ethnicdiversity.org](http://www.ethnicdiversity.org), or you may also email [office@ethnicdiversity.org](mailto:office@ethnicdiversity.org) or call (616) 846-9074. There will be no on-site registration. Attendees are encouraged to register before May 12.

### Cran-Hill Ranch: July 15-17

Our all-church campout weekend at Cran-Hill Ranch will be July 15-17, 2016. Bring your tent, trailer or reserve a spot in the Retreat Center. A variety of activities will be planned for kids from 1 (or under) to 100 (or over)! You can still sign up to attend - the deadline is June 30! And those who have already signed up: stay tuned for more details in June. Contact Joyce Teusink with any questions.



## Thank You

*I would like to thank Bill and Judy Parr for biking over and bringing me the lovely Easter Lily. I enjoyed our visit together.*

*Sincerely, Ruth Green*

*Thank you for the prayer support, financial support and gifts of supplies for my recent trip to Haiti to work for the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty. Your gifts enabled me to fill two suitcases with 99.5 pounds of needed supplies (just below the 50 pounds each limit) as well as a few pounds in my carry-on bag and some purchases made in country. My week was spent working with Dick Lenger of Grand Rapids and two of the HFAP staff, Wemby and Mark Joseph, in building sewing tables, shelves and a desk for the women's sewing program and two other cabinets for use in Mallery and Frentz Neptune's house, with the hope that Wemby and Mark Joseph will be able to do this work themselves in the future so that HFAP is more self-sufficient. During the week there were also women teaching new sewing products, a team of nurses providing medical check-ups and education, and a team providing Bibles to HFAP staff and students of the school they run, beds for a couple of homes, and sandwiches to the students at the school.*

*~Ben Sikkink*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

06 Ed Boer  
Care Group: 1

26 Mary McCune  
Care Group: 5

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

## Adult Education: May

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

### May 1- 22: Economics, Inequality, and Faith

Much of the 2016 political debate has centered on America's economic inequality. What are the root causes and social consequences of inequality? What is a Christian perspective on economics, enterprise, income redistribution, worker rights, and monetary ethics?

**May 1st:** Jordan Bruxvoort, Micah Center (Grand Rapids): "Biblical Foundations of the Government's Role in Administering Justice."

**May 8th:** Gema Lowe, Organizer at the Workers Center of the Micah Center: "Workplace Injustice and What We Can Do About It."

**May 15th:** Dr. Steven McMullen, Hope College Economics Department: "Christian Reflection on the Stories We Tell About Inequality and Poverty."

**May 22nd:** Dr. David Phillips, Hope College Economics Department: "What Has Been Happening to Inequality and Poverty? How Should the Church Respond?"

## Health Ministry: Mind-Full-Ness

Earl Laman, Health Ministry member

In our hurry-scurry, harem-scarem, topsy-turvy world, is there room for "mindfulness"?

Good question! But I heard someone say recently, "I need a good time and place to catch up with myself!"

Probably all of us need to admit that. And an "experience" called "mindfulness" may be appealing to us.

Appealing? As we find ourselves carried along 24/7 by the outer and inner currents of our days, who are we to ourselves? What are we really in touch with? How noisy is our mind? How distracted? How taken captive by the stuff of the past or the concerns about the future?

"Mindfulness" calls us to be aware of ourselves in the present moments! To be aware of our very "being" as a breathing, sensing, feeling, valuing, relating, intentional, self-conscious soul which we can override with our constant comings, goings, doings and strivings.

Wait! Isn't "mindfulness" a Buddhist thing? It is and has been encouraged by the Buddhist faith. Do they have a corner on self-awareness and consciousness of self? Not at all. Psalm 46.10 calls us to "Be still and know that

I am God." There is a long Christian tradition of contemplative prayer and meditation. Mindfulness practices can become a helpful way to respond to that first part of the call to be still.

I hear Christians noting that prayer and meditation makes them more mindful. Surely. But mindfulness calls for a narrowing of the focus: to deal with oneself in the moment- dismissing the past, the present, the surroundings- noting, listening, appreciating, apprehending, evaluating, longing, searching- being with oneself.

Sound rather self-centered? Only in the sense of honoring our innerness as a living being - of getting past the clutter of preoccupied thinking and of being non-judgmental, listening, and apprehending the presence of God who dwells within- of being awed by the existence of what is in our lives.

Others have described these set apart times in various ways: "practicing the present", "being awake to our inner fullness", "intimate attention to our inner being", "being relaxed and alert to ourselves".

I like to consider these times as wandering and wondering in the landscape of the Spirit. Perhaps all expressions fall short.

Most of us will have trouble dismissing intrusions of the past, demanding desires, anxious concerns, frenetic thoughts, scrupulous judging. It's worth the dismissive effort. These times can become precious, refreshing, expanding, peaceful and can lead to sensitivity, richer awareness, deeper gratitude, fuller apprehension, greater empathy toward others, expanded creativity, more self-respectful health.

Unfortunately, "mindfulness" has been employed to enhance "productivity" through practiced techniques, and drafted into pop culture. Made the cover of TIME Magazine last year. Not what we are encouraging.

The Psalms radiate mindfulness along with many Biblical expressions. Jesus went apart even for forty days in the wilderness. Entering into the experience of mindfulness nourishes spiritual, emotional, relational and physical health. Promising?

Certainly this is an inadequate introduction or expression about mindfulness. Hopefully, you will explore further and enter in. Stop by the Health Ministry bulletin board to find a few resources to help you explore and experiment with practices of mindfulness.

## CROP Walk

Judith Boogaart, CROP Walk Coordinator

Thanks for walking or supporting the 2016 CROP HUNGER WALK!

Now it's time to find your CROP Walk envelope and gather your pledges from your sponsors. We will be dedicating the offering at worship on Sunday, May 8th.

Please turn in your envelope whether or not you walked or collected any

funds, as we need to account for each one that was distributed.

This year, Holland's walk should reach the \$4,000,000 mark of funds raised since the walk began! Thanks for being a part of reaching this milestone, and continue to advocate for hunger relief around the world.



## Summer 2016 Preaching Schedule

For the past six summers, the consistory approved an adjusted summer preaching schedule that would provide our pastors, Gordon Wiersma and Jill Russell, some increased workload flexibility for the summer. Adjusting the schedule gave our pastors the time and space for reading, planning for the coming program year, professional exploration and growth as well as accommodating the impact on both pastors' schedules when one pastor is engaged in two different week long youth trips. In addition, it gave Hope Church the unique opportunity to invite guest preachers who brought to our congregation a range of diverse voices. With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the consistory has approved a similar preaching schedule for the summer of 2016. We are pleased to share the June preaching schedule with you. Look for the July and August preaching schedule in the June/July newsletter.

### JUNE

5	Gordon Wiersma
12	Veeda Javaid, Director of the Presbyterian Education board in Pakistan
19	Duane Loynes, Faculty Fellow Professor at Western Theological Seminary
26	Jill Russell

## *and finally*

While it is just the very beginning of Spring according to the weather outside my window as I write, my mind is forging ahead much further afield in my planning. At church and at home it seems as if we are all deep into planning mode getting meeting schedules, worship plans, vacation dates, and child care strategies into place. I look forward to getting all of that calendaring done because it represents a new season that will begin to unfold just over a month from now: SUMMER.

Summer becomes a time to downshift in order to connect with a more grace filled way of living marked not by productivity but by enjoyment. I don't mean enjoyment merely in terms of entertainment or amusement but in the deeper sense of cultivating joy. In particular, I am thinking about ways to strengthen the relationships of life. Breaking bread together is a beautiful way to do this. Andrew and I have enjoyed the practice of having people over to the house to share a meal. We've tried to maintain the practice through the academic/program year but it is hard to do in the bustle of family and professional life. We see the summer as a perfect opportunity to do more of it.

So this is an invitation to you on two fronts. On the first, consider joining us in making this a practice in your own life in whatever ways you can. Find places and ways to get together with people beyond your typical sphere of socializing to strengthen bonds of connection in your world. I have such fond memories of my parents inviting the "new folks" of our childhood church over for dinner. Maybe you could consider reaching out to people you don't know well and inviting them to meet you for coffee or join you for a meal.

The second invitation is to come to "Brunch with the Pastors" sometime this summer. We will be hosting brunch after worship on five summer Sundays. There will be ways to sign up through the website and in the gathering area. The dates will be June 19, July 24, July 31, August 21, and August 28. I hope you will come out for this time of informal conversation and fellowship with us over brunch at mine and Andrew's home. I am looking forward to the opportunity to break bread with you and to share time in a casual setting with no agenda but enjoying life together!

Peace to you,  
~Pastor Jill





# Hope Church News

May 2016



## June, July & August 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):

### June Greeters

05 Sally Winchester & Germaine  
Pellebon-Smith  
12 Jim & Cary Russell  
19 Rob & Katie VanArk  
26 Tony & Melissa VanderArk

### July Greeters

03 Charlie & Laura VanderBroek  
10 Barry & Judy Werkman  
17 Marlin & Judy VanderWilt  
24 Jim & AnnaMae VanderWoude  
31 Nancy VandeWater

### August Greeters

07 David VanDoorne & Bill VanDyke  
14 Fred & Lori VanDoornik  
21 David VanHeest & Doug Abell  
28 Gerard & Eloise VanHeest

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.***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Alyssa Anten</i> <b>9:30 am</b> Parents Class <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 pm</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>11:15 am</b> 6th and 7th Grade <b>12:15 pm</b> New Member Reception <b>12:15 pm</b> Bread for World Letter Writing <b>6 pm</b> High Hopes Unplugged <b>9:30 pm</b> Late Night Music & Lights	<b>2</b> <b>5 pm</b> Executive Committee <b>6:15 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance <b>7 pm</b> Community	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 1 <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 2 <b>4 pm</b> Adult Education <b>5:45 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>6:30</b> Health <b>7 pm</b> Reconciliation <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Children's Sabbath</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Jim Brownson</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> High Hopes Unshowered <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>4:30 pm</b> High Hopes Tulip Time Stroll <b>6 pm</b> Fish Club	<b>9</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>12 pm</b> Communications Taskforce <b>6 pm</b> Elders Meeting <b>7 pm</b> Ministry Chairs & Consistory	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>7 pm</b> Circle 4	<b>12</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Personnel/ Discerning our Future <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Youth Profession of Faith</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Kay Hubbard</i> <b>9:30 am</b> Parents Class <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>11:15 am</b> 6th and 7th Grade <b>12:15 pm</b> Reception for youth <b>12:30 pm</b> Appalachian Trail Practice Hike <b>4 pm</b> Jonathan Vanderbeck Ordination Service	<b>16</b> <b>7 pm</b> Congregational Care	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>10:30 am</b> Coffee Time at Warm Friend <b>12 pm</b> Building & Grounds <b>1 pm</b> Readers <b>5:45 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>6 pm</b> Summit for Care & Hospitality <b>7 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>10 am-12 pm</b> Compassionate Connection Art Response
<b>22</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>9:30 am</b> Parents Class <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12:15 pm</b> Pizza Sunday - <i>Teacher Appreciation &amp; Reception for Brownsons</i> <b>Time TBD</b> High Hopes & Fish Club End of Year Party	<b>23</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>12 pm</b> 20/30s Steering Force <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>7 pm</b> Worship, Prayer and Spirituality	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast	<b>26</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (United Methodist Gym)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 First Summer Sunday</b> <b>9:40 am</b> Nursery <b>10 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i>	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day - Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b>				



## A LIVING HOPE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for FACILITIES REVITALIZATION

Dear Hope Church member or friend,

In the last few weeks, the Living Hope project has reached a significant milestone. We began in 2011 identifying ways in which our buildings could better support our ministries: more flexibility, more accessibility, more welcome, and more sustainability. We've completed Schematic Design (creative thinking about how we'd achieve those goals), Design and Development (figuring out how we could feasibly implement those creative ideas), and Construction Documentation (putting the "how-to" down on paper with enough detail to communicate with those who will implement the plans).

The first week of April, we received the responses to our bid requests, based on the Construction Documents. The high level of activity in construction in our region has meant one of the most challenging bidding environments our construction managers at Elzinga & Volkers have ever seen. This good news for the construction industry, all the people who work within it, and our community has meant challenges for our project.

The Living Hope Team, including our construction managers and Elevate Studio, our architects, have spent significant time reviewing our plans to keep them on track with the financial models used by the Capital Campaign team--while still honoring the goals outlined in our design brief. We've also taken special care to assure that the renovations we complete are of high quality, while reserving parts of the original vision for another time. The team has been mindful of the legacy we leave for subsequent project teams responsible for the next renovation in support of the continued mission and ministry of Hope Church!

To align with the financial commitment the Capital Campaign Team deems advisable (as informed by the very generous support thus far from people like you), the Living Hope Team has determined that the west ramp from the Gathering Area to the Narthex must be deferred for another time. The west entrance to the sanctuary from the Gathering Area will be modified to include a ramp to the chancel, which accomplishes a key part of our accessibility goal.

The plan Consistory has approved for the Living Hope renovations continues to carry out our project goals of welcome, flexibility, accessibility, and sustainability:

- A more welcoming experience, starting with a canopy over the east-side entrance from the parking lot
- A chapel that will be a sacred space for Early Worship, special services as part of Lent and Advent seasons, and small weddings and funerals
- A nursery that is directly in view from the east-side entrance and more proximate to the sanctuary and chapel
- Accessibility to the second floor of the education wing, with an elevator that will remove obstacles for both Child Development Services and our own members and guests
- Reconfigured offices that enable staff to be more accessible to visitors and to each other

*turn page over*



- An improved Commons with new sound and lighting, a refreshed youth room, and a new meeting room all for more hospitality and flexibility for the many groups who use them for many different purposes
- Enhanced controls for our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, along with some new components, all to manage our comfort and energy consumption

And it's exciting to note that the renovation is already underway! Groundwork was laid starting in February, when Ben Sikkink led teams of volunteers to refresh Room 106 for use as temporary office space. That allowed Office 2 and Room 108 to be vacated for renovation; Child Development Services was able to move into their new office in Room 108 last week. That clears the way for demolition to begin in the Youth Room wing, which will include the new nursery and refreshed Youth Room.

The timeline for the rest of the construction will be shared as soon as it is finalized as bids are awarded for various parts of the work. Elzinga & Volkers will also provide a biweekly newsletter to keep everyone aware of what's been complete and what's on the horizon. Communications will also include volunteer opportunities--which will help us control costs as well as giving us a chance to show what we can accomplish together!

To bring you up to date on the financial side of the project: On April 26, Consistory approved a final project budget of \$3,257,000. The Capital Campaign Team notes that we have \$2,257,000 already pledged or donated. There is still a million dollars of funding to be located, and the team remains both confident and optimistic about achieving that goal.

Finally, please mark your calendar for June 12, after the 10 a.m. worship service, when we'll have a celebration to formally launch the Living Hope renovation project. While there will be some disruption along the way, we're excited to see the project unfold, and to have a facility that is more welcoming, accessible, flexible, and sustainable, all in support of our living, together, into the mission and ministry we share.