



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 9

October 2016

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Inserts:

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

**The deadline for the
November newsletter is
Tuesday, October 18.**

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

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



World Communion Sunday, October 2: Collection of Breads for Community Kitchen



Please plan to bake or purchase a loaf of bread to bring to worship on Sunday, World Communion Sunday, October 2. The loaves will be received at our 8:30am and 11am worship services to beautify our communion celebration, and then will be donated to the Community Kitchen at Western Seminary to distribute to families in our community. We would love to have a collection of various ethnic breads to display and distribute, so please be creative!

Wednesday Evening Fall Series October 5, 12, 19, & 26 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. with light supper provided

There will be two offerings starting with a shared meal provided. Pastor Beth will lead a series entitled "Stories: listening for the ways God has worked in others so that I might see how God is at work in me". As part of the series, Hope Church members will share a testimony each week: Oct. 5-Michael Kolk, Oct. 12-Linda Graham, Oct. 19-Larry Mulder, and Oct. 26-David Myers. Pastors Gordon and Jill will also lead a series using a book by Brian McLaren entitled *We Make the Road By Walking*. Books are available in the gathering area. Sign up in the gathering area today!

Healing Prayer Service: October 9

A healing prayer service will take place on Sunday, October 9, during the 11:00 am Worship Service. The liturgy at the 11am service will focus on the need for healing from God in our lives, in the lives of those we love, and in our world. During the service, there will be the opportunity for the congregation to offer prayers for healing and to receive a blessing of healing oil as a symbol of God's healing touch. If you are unable to attend the 11am worship on October 9 and would like a particular prayer for healing to be included, please contact Pastor Jill Russell, Pastor Gordon Wiersma or the church office to let your prayer request be known.

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry



This year, in Christian Education classes and through our annual fund campaign, we will use the metaphor of "living stones" to help us remember that, while our building may evolve in exciting new ways, in the greater scheme of things, it is the lives of all of us which create this wonderful "spiritual house" that is the Church.

As you consider your annual pledge for the future of Hope Church, keep in mind that we are like living stones, building our spiritual house together. For several years we have used the image of a three-legged

stool (representing our annual fund drive, our capital campaign, and our endowment) to remind each other of the many ways in which we support our spiritual house. You will be receiving a letter later this month regarding our annual fund drive. It includes a number of budget related matters for you to review as you reflect on how you can

be a "living stone" contributor to the "spiritual house" that is Hope Church.

This October we plan to follow an informational and budgeting process similar to last year:

- You will receive a copy of the 2017 budget in your stewardship mailing later this month.
- With this budget in mind, please give careful and prayerful thought to the level of contribution you can commit during 2017. You will be

invited to bring your pledge form to church on Stewardship Sunday, November 13, or you can mail it to the church office by that date.

- On Sunday, January 15, there will be a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the final 2017 budget. Through these last months of 2016 there will also be regular updates on weekly contributions toward our 2016 commitments.

The Living Stone beckons us to join in building our spiritual house of worship, service, and prayer. We are beckoned to be living stones who live and share our faith in community together. As you make your annual pledge to the life of Hope Church, celebrate with us the many ways that Hope Church comes alive through each of us, living stones.

Financial Update as of 9/21/16:

Income YTD - \$459,350

Income Budget YTD - \$498,064

Expense YTD - \$485,162

Expense Budget YTD - \$516,965

Caring for Creation Corner

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

Do you feel the spark of electricity in the air? No, it is not the changing seasons I'm referencing. Rather, it is the work of Hope Church congregant, Peter Boogaart in his new role as the City of Holland's first-ever residential energy adviser for the Home Energy Retrofit Program which launches October 1. The program ties together several core parts of our faith: caring for the least of those among us and caring for creation. Peter was featured in the recent Groundwork article "Holland Energy Plan Scores Its First Big Win" and said that "one of the wonderful things about our Plan is

that it can take the energy economic burden off of people who need the most relief."

To enable low income residents to take part in this program, the city created the Holland Energy Fund with \$3 million set aside to help lower interest rates. Other funds are reserved to provide a 20 percent match for projects costing over \$10,000. Any customer, including many most banks would ignore, can qualify simply by having a one-year perfect record on utility bills and no debt-related legal troubles. The terms are 4.9 to 5.9 percent for up

to 15 years. The city has changed state law to facilitate on-bill financing of energy efficiency projects. This means that someone could improve the comfort of their home and lower their energy use and pay it back slowly over time on the same bill they already pay every month. Often the lower energy use means that the bill ends up being the same or lower than it was before.

Peter helps walk people through the entire process. "I'll be there on behalf of homeowners to make it as streamlined as possible," he promises. "One-stop shopping, financing,

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

technical questions, especially when they get a full home energy evaluation. You can sit down with the city—that's me—and learn what it all really means."

Lastly, if you weren't already excited about the new power plant, you are about to be! The plant isn't completed and it's already been awarded the prestigious Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision Platinum Award, its top rating, which has gone to just 15 projects, and never to a

power plant. The award was given due to the high attention given to sustainability during all facets of the project, such as removing 11.5 tons of asbestos, collecting 296 tires, crushing 12,600 tons of concrete and masonry material for onsite reuse, and steering 14,000 tons of material away from landfills. Moreover the natural gas powered plant will be more efficient than most, due to plans to use waste heat to melt snow on miles of sidewalks and streets and also to heat buildings.

So the next time you feel a spark in the air, appreciate the passing wonder of summer turning into fall, but also take a moment to reflect on how much progress Holland is making toward its Community Energy Plan goal of reducing gas and electric use by 50% by 2050. With all of us reducing energy use as best we can and with help from community leaders like Peter, that distant dream is one step closer to becoming reality.

Adult Education: October

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons I

September 11–October 2:

Pastor Jill Russell will share some of what she learned last fall during her sabbatical studies on reconciliation. The title for this series speaks to Jill's growing conviction that reconciliation is not just a nice idea or tool to be picked up at moments of crisis or conflict but rather needs to be embraced as a way of life.

Reconciliation as a Way of Life

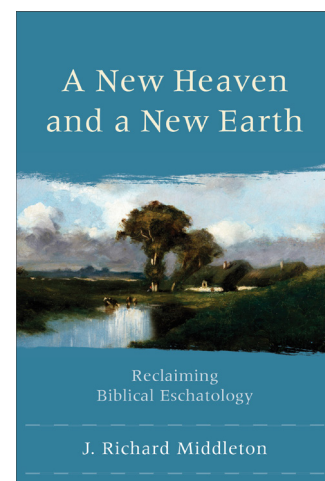
Oct. 2: The Inspiration Along the Way - Pastor Jill will share photos and stories from her time with the Iona Community. Jill will share how the time at Iona stimulated a renewal of spiritual practices that continue to feed her commitment to reconciliation as a way of life. Jill will solicit interest from those gathered to consider taking a Hope Church trip together to Iona sometime in the not too distant future.

October 9-30:

Steve Bouma-Prediger will lead us through a new way of understanding what the Bible says about end times. In God's good future, will Christians be whisked off the earth and the earth be burned up to nothing? What does biblical hope really look like? In this class we will explore these (and other) questions with the help of Richard Middleton's *A New Heaven and a New Earth*. Over against the all-too-common eschatology of heavenly rapture and earthly destruction, this book reclaims the scriptural vision of cosmic renewal. Reading *A New Heaven and a New Earth* will be optional, and copies of the book are available for purchase at the Hope Church welcome desk. The four classes will address the following questions:

A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology

- Oct. 9:** What is the plot of the biblical story?
- Oct. 16:** What is salvation in the Old Testament?
- Oct. 23:** What is the New Testament's vision of redemption?
- Oct. 30:** What does this holistic eschatology mean for how we live today?



Pausing Mid-Way for Celebrations

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

A LIVING HOPE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for FACILITIES REVITALIZATION



On September 18, we collectively appreciated the work completed thus far on our Living Hope facility renovation project. The parking lot is finished, with its final coat of asphalt and striping. The canopy, which both indicates the primary entrance and offers shelter from rain, sleet, and snow, is also complete.

Indoors, a walking tour encouraged folks to explore the fresher, brighter Commons, as well as the renovated youth room, new nursery, and the single-use, gender neutral restroom. Members of the Living Hope Design and Capital Campaign Teams were on hand to answer questions like this one:

Where will the stained glass that was in the former prayer chapel/ Washington School Neighbors office be located? Honestly, we're not quite

sure. Because that piece of glass was freestanding and mounted on the wall, rather than installed in it, we were able to remove it safely and store it for its protection. As the construction nears its conclusion, we'll consider the best location for its long-term display.

In a brief meeting before the open house, Ron Mulder gave an update on the funding for the construction project. He reviewed the progress toward our goal, expressing gratitude for the generosity and commitment of the Hope Church community. At the time of his update we have approximately \$500,000 yet to raise. He also noted that financing is in place through the RCA Growth Fund if we don't entirely reach our goal of \$3,257,000 by the end of the construction phase, and that the Stewardship and Finance Ministry is involved in anticipating the

implications for operating budgets if we do need to assume a mortgage.

Your continued prayerful support is appreciated, for the financial resources, for the safety of those involved in the construction, and for continued patience with the changes and disruptions.

Please be aware that construction on the Gathering Area began on September 26 and will go through November 30, during the week (Monday-Friday, 7am - 5 pm). Therefore, you will need to enter the building through the **10th street doors** for all daytime meetings or events. During the evening or on the weekend, you will be able to use the parking lot doors. Fellowship after worship will take place in the Commons on Sundays. All sign up sheets will also be available in the Commons on Sundays, and in the office during the week. Please also be aware that there will be considerable dust in the air as part of the demolition. Thanks for your understanding and flexibility!

Living Hope Renovations
Pun of the Month

Pastor Gordon: "Have they determined exactly how much the cement will cost for the renovations?"
Pastor Jill: "We have estimates, but nothing concrete."



Hope Church staff and Elzinga & Volkers' Senior Field Manager Joe Shashaguay show off the new canopy and newly paved parking lot.



The finished canopy in front of Hope Church

New Seminary Intern: Qiaoqiao Chen



Welcome to our new WTS Intern, Qiaoqiao Chen. Qiaoqiao is beginning her studies at WTS and would typically have her internship last for 2 years. Below is a note of introduction from Qiaoqiao; please be sure to welcome Qiaoqiao as she serves and learns among us!

Hi, my name is Qiaoqiao (pronounced Cheowcheow) Chen, and I'm the new seminary intern. I come from the Mainland of China. I then graduated with my Master of engineering in Food Chemistry in Shanxi University, and I also served in Taiyuan Reformed

Evangelical Church of China from 2012 to 2016. It is from the service in the church that I've found the value of my life, and that I've experienced plenty of grace from God! I currently study in Western Theological Seminary for my Master of Divinity. This is my first time to the US, and Holland is a lovely community! My friends Andrus from Hungary, Lubna from Pakistan, and I ride our bicycles to Lake Macatawa or Windmill Island every day. We all love the nice city! I'm excited to start my new journey in Hope Church! I'm looking forward to sharing God's love with you!

Returning Seminary Intern: Alyssa Anten



I am very excited to be back at Hope Church this year! I am eager to begin diving a little deeper into areas that have caught my interest and tug at my heart. You will continue to see my husband, CJ, and I around church on Sunday mornings, and hopefully you will see me up front some as well! I will continue serving on the Early Worship Task Force, and will have several opportunities for leadership there.

I will begin to serve in some aspects of congregational care and develop greater awareness for how care is done

at Hope Church. I will also be getting involved with the Reconciliation ministry this winter, and hope to serve in some capacity there! I will also continue to lead the Refugee Task Force, and pursue hosting a family as a church body. All three of these focus areas speak to my calling as a social working pastor, and I am anxious to develop my gifts in order that I be better equipped for what's ahead! It will be an exciting and full year, and I am very excited to continue to get to know this congregation better!

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.

Health Ministry

Ginger Clark RN, Parish Nurse



We are a team of people of faith who are working together to help create a healthier community at Hope Church. **Our mission is to promote the physical, mental, social and spiritual aspects of living to reach wholeness in health.** We collaborate with a shared vision to provide ways to enhance and grow the health of our parishioners. Living healthy lives doesn't mean just seeing your doctor regularly. Rather, your faith life, movement, medical health, work, emotions, nutrition and family and friends contribute to a life filled with love, joy and most important, a stronger connection with God.

Faith life- building a relationship with God, your neighbor and self; **Emotional-** managing stress and understanding your feelings to better care for yourself; **Work-** appreciating your skills, talents and gifts; **Medical-** partnering with your health professional to manage your health; **Movement-** discovering ways to enjoy physical activity; **Nutrition-** making smart food choices and developing healthy eating habits and **Friends and Family-** giving and receiving support through relationships.

Our agenda is as follows:

Sponsor and support the Healing Prayer Service, a yearly Adult Education Series, Monthly news articles, bulletin board and updated health information, loaner medical equipment, fitness education and programs, blood pressure clinics, blood drive updates and assistance, caregiver support group, first aid/AED supplies and education, assist and encourage the Parish Nurse duties,

community resource input and the knitting ministry for prayer shawls and baptism blankets.

We collaborate with the pastors, congregational care, and disability networking group and local care facilities and special interest groups.

MEMBERS are: Jackie Knoll, Ann Anderson, Lori Van Doornik, Eloise Van Heest, Maxine Debruyne, and Earl Laman. **STAFF SUPPORT** are: Pastor Jill Russell and Parish Nurse Ginger Clark RN.

New members are always welcome. Come join this wonderful focus group who share the same vision with trust, respect and energy to meet the goals of our mission!

(resources: HMASSOC.org and Foundations of Faith Community Nursing)

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Building and Grounds Ministry.

Blueberry Pie Sales Aid Haitian Child

Ben Sikkink, Hope Church Deacon

Early this summer one of the women in the commerce program of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty brought her then 3-year-old son, Jorvens, to their school while a visiting mission team was offering medical care. In the previous few months a tumor had grown just under Jorvens' left eye. It was quickly determined that treatment in Haiti would not be possible, and in miraculous timing for Haiti a medical visa was obtained so that Jorvens could travel to the U.S. for diagnosis and treatment. He was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma

in Indianapolis and then transferred to DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids for treatment, where he observed his fourth birthday during his first week there. During the initial treatments he also lost the vision in his right eye. He has responded well to the treatments though also suffering from many of the side effects of chemotherapy. He is being cared for by Frentz and Mallery Neptune of HFAP and a foster family in GR.

In August the deacons of Hope Church voted to donate \$1,000 of the

proceeds from the recent blueberry pie sale to HFAP to help pay for Jorvens' care, with the balance raised going into the Adult Mission Trip Fund. Thank you to all who helped make the pies and all who purchased them so that we could provide some assistance for this critical need. In Mallery's own words of thanks, "Wow! That's wonderful! I am going through some of his medical bills today and this will really help! Thank you! Glad to hear it was another success this year!"

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Children's Offering

The children are excited to once again use their offerings to support the schools in Martinpur, Pakistan. This village was named after Dr. Samuel Martin, a Presbyterian missionary who was the great-grandfather of Sam Martin, a member of our church and was integral in the education of the area's children. This connection with the schools is a great reminder of how one person's actions can build a strong base for continued growth and a wonderful witness to the world. The children will also be learning Urdu numbers as they count their offerings in the worship center. This is a fun connection to the students in the schools in Martinpur as we know that they are also learning about our numbers.

Throughout the year we will be encouraging the children to share their gifts of time, talents, and money. Sharing what we have is an important part of being faithful to God. The children will be reminded that the special gifts that God has given each of them should be used and valued by sharing with others.

Family Time Together

It is time for another fun family event. The Christian Education Ministry will host a time of fall activities that we hope will be of interest for everyone in your family. On Saturday, October 29th you can come for a simple meal and enjoy the games, crafts and activities. Look for more information in the weeks to come.

Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Resident Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

"I like how modern it looks." "I like how much light comes in the room now." "I love the colors." On September 18, High Hopes and Fish Club celebrated not only a new year, but also our new space. In addition to some of our yearly kick off traditions, like a pizza party and a scavenger hunt, we took some time to reflect on the older space in addition to dedicating the new. While the youth were quick to describe all of the wonderful new features of the renovated youth room, we also found meaning in reflecting on our favorite memories of the older space. Over the years, our youth have enjoyed primarily the memories of shared time together, but even expressed enjoyment over some of the quirrier features of the room. The mustard yellow armchair, which sat sometimes 2-3 youth at a time. The unique hiding places the "pit" offered in games of hide and seek and sardines. All of the shared snacks and conversation around the island, even if it did occasionally mean sharing with an ant or 2.

What rose to the top in our discussion was the great affirmation our youth feel in being gifted with this brand new beautiful and functional room. The new space makes them feel cared for and prioritized in our church body. It even allows us to think beyond our four walls to exploring ways the space "blesses us to be a blessings" to those in our every day community. I invite you to share in the prayer we offered that opening night.

God of our world, both around us and with us here we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ your Son. You have blessed the works of the hands who built this room and your Holy Spirit is already at work using it to shape our lives and those who we care for.

Just as you welcome us here, make us welcoming of others.

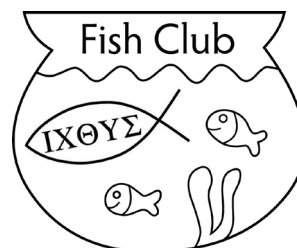
Just as you feed us here, help us to feed your sheep.

Just as we laugh here, make us those who bring joy to your world.

Just as we share here, help us to be those who share your word in love and deed.

Help us to be faithful stewards of the gift of this space.

In Jesus's name, Amen.



Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet at Norma Killilea's on Weds. Oct. 5, at 9:30 am.

Circle 2 will meet on Weds. Oct. 5 at 9:30 am in Commons II at Hope Church.

Circle 4 will meet Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7:00 pm. Nancy Rock will host the meeting and Eloise Van Heest will lead the lesson discussion.

As **Hope Church Women's Circles** begin their regular meetings this fall, members wish to extend a personal invitation to those at Hope Church who have not been part of a Circle. Circle meetings are a rich experience of studying a portion of scripture together and sharing what faith means and has meant in our lives. Meetings are often in a member's home; some are in church. Coffee and refreshments are provided by members. Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am (Circle One and Circle Two) and the second Thursday evening at 7 (Circle Four). Please look for the sign up sheet in the Commons or speak to a Circle contact (Jan Mahaney or Nancy VandeWater for Circle One, Dorothy Sherburne for Circle Two, or Judy Bos for Circle Four) if you might like to participate in Circle activities.

Blood Drive: October 9

The next blood drive will be held at First United Methodist Church on October 9 from 8:30am - 2:15 pm.

Orientation to Hope Church Class

On Sunday, October 9, at 9:40 a.m., an Orientation to Hope Church Class will begin for people who are wanting to learn more about Hope Church. The class will meet on three Sunday mornings, October 9, 16, and 23 at 9:40 a.m. in Commons II. For those who are interested in joining Hope Church, a dessert meeting with the Board of Elders will occur on November 14 at 6:30 pm. A public reception of new

members will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on November 20. You are cordially and warmly invited to attend these orientation classes whether you are interested in membership at Hope Church or simply wanting to learn more about this congregation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 392-7947.

Coffee Time at Resthaven—40th St

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 Resthaven—40th St on Tuesday, October 11 2016, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour!

Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 19th at 1:00pm in Commons II. We will be discussing the book The Brendan Voyage by Tim Severin. Our leaders will be Libby Hillegonds and Ruth Donaldson, and the hostesses will be: Barb Osborn & Kay Hubbard. New members are always welcome.

Brim Bunch: October 27

Our first meeting of the year will be our harvest supper on October 27 at 6:00 pm in the Commons. Our dinner will be our traditional fare - beef stew, green salad, applesauce, home-baked bread, and pumpkin pie. The cost is still \$8.00 payable at the door. Reservations are expected. If you are not on the calling list, please call Marilyn Cook. Kristine Bradfield will teach us about the Children in Worship program and tell us a story using that format. Her talk is titled "Godly Play-A new way to look at the Bible's stories." The bus will pick up from Freedom Village at 5:30 pm. Guests are expected.

Pizza Sunday: October 30

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, October 30. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you are willing to serve as host in the future months.

Cleaning Up the Church Gardens

This task needs to be completed soon! If you or a group you belong to have "adopted" a section of the church gardens, we need you to clean up your plot for fall. City curbside pick-up (of leaves only) will be from October 1 through November 19. Please bring your own clippers, rakes, etc. If you love to rake leaves, please feel free to share that gift with Hope Church. If you are uncertain about what needs trimming, please contact David VanHeest.



Big Read November 2016

You are invited to join in The Big Read Holland Area's 2016 program featuring the book Brother I'm Dying by Edwidge Danticat. The Big Read is a month-long community-wide reading program consisting of book discussions, lectures, art workshops, film screenings and more around the book, taking place during the month of November 2016. Information and details about all Big Read events can be found at: <https://blogs.hope.edu/thebigread/>.

No Flu Shot Clinic

Holland Hospital has discontinued their flu shot clinics and therefore Hope Church will not be offering a flu shot clinic this year.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 07 Eleanor Hopkins
Care Group: 6
- 29 Elsie Howard
Care Group: 5
- 31 Hank Telgenhof
Care Group: 5

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

Snowbirds!

Please call the church office at 392-7947 to let us know when you'll be leaving and what your temporary address will be so that you can continue receiving the Hope Church News and other church mailings.

Photo Disclaimer



We continue to update photos on the website (HopeChurchRCA.org) throughout the year. We won't identify the people in the photographs used on the website except in the staff directory. **If you do not want pictures of yourself or your children to be displayed on the website**, please contact Megan at (616) 392-7947 or marevalo@hopechurchrca.org.



Hope Church members and friends enjoyed a picnic after worship on Kick Off Sunday.

Your Body: Fantabulous “....awesomely and wonderfully made....”

A Faithful Fist!

Earl Laman, Health Ministry member



That identifies the Heart that has beat in all of us since well before birth and faithfully functions until our last breath. It is a boneless fist of pulsating muscle.

We can feel its rhythm at times, mostly during exertion, but rarely think of it. It takes no signal from the brain. Mysteriously, it has its own electrical system and generates its own contracting sequences!

But, WOW! - does it ever do its job! Steadily. All day. Every day.

It beats about 100,000 times a day! Pumps about 200 gallons a day! Through every cell in our entire body! (How many of those do we have?!)

That adds up to about 2,000 million beats per year (about 2.5 billion per lifetime) while dispensing over 100 million gallons of blood yearly! Through what? About 60,000 miles of bodily blood vessels! Uncomprehensible? Yet real. “WOW” doesn’t really say it, does it?

Ever hear of a pump with that capacity? that durability? providing that kind of life sustaining circulation?

The heart is associated with “Love”, visually and in our psyches- probably because we feel such sensations in the center of our bodies where the heart lies. Not a bad connection.

However, we need to turn the connection around and deeply sense the need to “Love our Heart.” We each have one, thanks to the Creator’s scheme of things. But heart disease is and has been the leading cause of death! Ironical, isn’t it? This faithful fist which empowers everyday life and vitality becomes hampered and clogged by our disregard, denial and degrading lifestyles! It could comedically say, “I don’t get no respect!”

More education needed? Nah, we are overloaded with heart knowledge, we understand what it needs and what is destructive.

Can our faith in medical care, treatments and drugs change all the damage? As thankful as we are for all of these to save us from ourselves, what is the heart of the matter?

How about a restored reverence for the Creator’s work doled out to us in our personal bodies? Or about a renewed realization of the heart’s majesty? How about loving life at its core of sustenance? Or about a revisit to our “good enough care” attitudes? Or about sustaining and restoring healthfulness in our personal world?

Does it take our body’s warnings to awaken us to its working and wholeness needs? I remember well lying and foggily staring up at a monitor as a catheter slithered through my arteries to unclog and open! Confession, awakenedness, and new commitment came rather late, but not too late!

Love is of the heart which is in need of love.

and finally

September has been a full and wonderful kick off to our new program year. The coming together for two services of worship again, the return of the education hour, the reconvening of youth group gatherings, Children in Worship, Women's Circles, small groups. Lots of life and energy! We also had a beautiful time of celebration on September 18th with an open house for the areas of our renovation project that are completed and put back into use for the sake of our ministry: the renovated Commons and Youth Room, the new nurse's, the new canopy, and finished parking lot. These spaces were completed during the summer with relatively little impact on our congregational life beyond the day to day work of the staff. These spaces are either brand new or a refurbishment of spaces that we are continuing to use as we have before. The changes in these spaces are deeply appreciated and welcomed as the work done makes them more functional, more flexible, more hospitable. Have you noted how excellent the Commons sound system is? Or how bright the new lighting is? The youth ministry had an excellent time of celebrating and utilizing their new space and others are beginning to use that space as well. It's been a time of great celebration.

This next phase of work will be a fair bit more intrusive. If you haven't already, you will soon discover the inconvenience of arriving mid-week and having to walk around the building to the 10th street entrance. You will see the dust as you enter into the Gathering Area on Sunday. Some have already experienced the frustration of not knowing where certain things have been moved that used to be housed there. But those inconveniences will not last forever and I have greatly appreciated the work of our staff in anticipating and planning for alternatives, the tireless work of Lois Maassen and the Living Hope Design Team who meet so frequently to problem solve and creatively address the myriad of questions that come with a project like this.

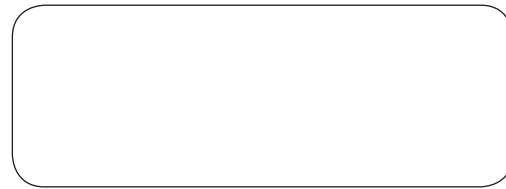
But there is something more I wanted to name about the work of this project that some of you are fully aware of and feel deeply and some of you may not be aware of at all. We have begun and are continuing to tear down some spaces in our facility that many people over many years have painstakingly planned, designed, furnished, maintained, and lovingly tended. Think about the excitement and great care that led to the creation of the Garden Lounge, to the curating of our Library collection, or the design and loving care of our beautiful gardens. Think about the hours people have spent over the years investing in those spaces, tending them, improving them. We knew when we made and voted on these renovation plans that those spaces were going to change. We knew there was no way to bring in cranes and cement trucks without trampling the gardens. We knew that the expanded gathering area, the new chapel, the relocation of the reception area of the offices, the connection between gathering area and youth and nursery wing would inevitably require the dismantling of the Garden Lounge and the Library. We knew these things but now that the time is here I am mindful of the possible grief some are feeling as pieces of their contributions to our ministry are being dismantled. So I want to say a clear and strong "Thank You" for the vision you had to create those spaces and the dedication you brought to maintaining them. These spaces have served our ministry so very well for many, many years. To say that we are ready to have something new come into those spaces does not diminish in any way how important they have been to us before. I have no doubts that in the next 150 years of Hope Church's ministry that people will innovate and renovate and maybe even dismantle some of what we have all envisioned for today. It felt important to not just celebrate the new and the exciting but to name some of the loss that comes with closing a chapter. The wisdom of Ecclesiastes reminds us that "For everything there is a time and season..." He was right. But that doesn't mean it's always easy when those shifting seasons come along.

Peace to you,
Pastor Jill



Hope Church News

October 2016



Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Co-Director



Please pray for our returning mentors, prayer partners and Kids Hope Vanderbilt students as they resume their work together during the week of October 3. We are very grateful for each of them for without their commitment there would be no Hope Church Kids Hope.

It takes a little longer to begin working with students who are new to the program, but we hope to have all of our mentors working with students by the middle of October and we ask for your prayers for them as well.

We also ask you to pray that we will be able to provide a mentor for each child referred to us, which is something that we were unable to do during the 2015-2016 school year. Our need for new mentors continues to be great.

For further information about Kids Hope and opportunities to work with Hope Church's ministry to at-risk kids, please call Barb Joldersma or Vicki Rumpsa. It's not too late to begin mentoring a child this year.

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Audrienne Hill</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 6 pm High Hopes Unplugged	3 12 pm Communications Task Force 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance 7 pm Community	4	5 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 5:45 pm Fall Series 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	6 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6:30 pm Health 7 pm Reconciliation 7 pm Hope & Grace 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	7 Time TBD: Fish Club & High Hopes Play at Hope College	8
9 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Judith Boogaart</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell ~ Healing Prayer Service</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 3 pm Grace Miguel Cipriano Ordination	10 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory with Board of Elders & Deacons	11 8:45 am Kids Hope Training 10:30 am Coffee Time at Resthaven - 40th St.	12 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:45 pm Fall Series 6 pm Carillon Choir	13 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Circle 4 7 pm Personnel 7 pm Hope & Grace 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	14	15 1 pm Fish Club Corn Maze @ Crane's
16 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Katie Van Ark</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th and 7th Grade	17 4 pm Outreach and Hospitality 7 pm Congregational Care	18	19 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 5:45 pm Fall Series 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	20 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Hope & Grace 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	21 <div>Diners Club Weekend</div>	22
23 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Kay Hubbard</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class @ St. Francis 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Beth Carroll</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 6 pm High Hopes Food Prep	24 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Christian Education 7 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	25	26 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:45 pm Fall Series 6 pm Carillon Choir	27 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm Hope & Grace 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	28	29 Time TBD: Family Time Together Harvest Party
30 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Karmen Kooyers</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th and 7th Grade 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 6 pm Fish Club Tank Time	31					