



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 60, No. 6

June/July 2017

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Inserts:

- June/July Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

The deadline for the August newsletter is **Monday, July 17.**

Office Hours

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

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Tying Up Loose Ends for Living Hope

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader



While the bulk of the construction work is complete, there will continue to be developments in the Hope Church facility over the summer. Many of those developments simply complete original plans (completing furniture purchases, for example), but since a few questions have come up repeatedly, we'll answer them here:

What's in store for room 106? Some facelift began before room 106 was used as temporary office space during construction: painting and extended wiring. Further work is planned, replacing the child-sized sink with an adult-sized one and installing fresh flooring. Washington School Neighbors has an office in one corner for the new neighborhood connector, Christen Bordenkircher; the rest of the space (entire or divided with movable partition into two) will be available for group activities--especially the arts envisioned during the Living Hope requirements gathering.

What's the plan for the memorial garden plaques? Our original plan for the plaques was stymied when we needed to scale back our plans to reduce the cost--and eliminate the exterior west sanctuary ramp. We have a new plan, though, for the plaques to be placed in the hallway outside of the chapel, where they will be part of the view to the memorial garden and proximate to meditation spaces.

Will the music room get any attention? The music room was originally out of scope for extensive work because it functioned quite well--both for acoustics and specialized storage. The room was included in the fire suppression system installation, and had one corner affected by the replacement of the courtyard with the chapel and hallway. We've also replaced the door hardware so both doors are ADA-compliant and easy to open. We do have further plans, thanks to willing volunteers: some fresh paint, new office furniture, and repairs.

If you have lingering questions, contact Lois Maassen or drop them off at the church office. We'll keep answering as long as people keep asking!

A Celebration of A Living Hope

On Saturday, April 29, we celebrated the completion of Hope Church's facility renovation! Thanks to Colette Choryan from Elzinga & Volkers for taking pictures at the event.



Final Living Hope Renovations Puns of the Month! - contributed by Earl Laman

Hope Member: "The new 11th street cement stairs are really fine!"

Paul Elzinga: "Yes, we're entranced that they're steps in the right direction."

Hope Member: "Wonderful, we've completed our 'A Living Hope' campaign!"

Ms. Maassen: Yes, it was a constructive effort at the Loised cost with fine supports."

Hope Member: "Oh, the gardens are in and should be grand!"

David VanHeest: "Weed like church growth to be well grounded."

Hope Member: "The choir truly does minister to the congregation."

Brian Carder: "The music staff is noteable for voicing our concerns."

Hope Member: "The Fellowship Ministry really serves at a lot of activities."

Ms. Teusink: "We reJoyce that you can counter on us for a wide range of good stuff."

Hope Member: "The new signage in the church is so lovely and helpful."

Ric Beltran: "Well, it's a good move."

Hope Member: "The Health Ministry really tries to keep us well."

Ginger Clark: "Sometimes we try in vein, but with low pressure so no one gets sick of us."

Hope Member: "We are now a church with an elevator!"

The Pastors: "We try to be uplifting, but we have our ups and downs."

Neighbor: "You have some members who ride bicycles to the church."

Joe Arevalo: "Yes, they don't want to walk or ride because they're two tired."

Hope Church Welcomes New Members

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on April 30 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Please take the time to welcome these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

Todd & Nancy Kamstra



Todd & Nancy Kamstra join by reaffirmation of faith. Todd works as a social worker for Zeeland Public Schools and is the Varsity Men's soccer coach and Varsity Lacrosse coach. Nancy is a professor at Hope College in the department of Kinesiology. Their oldest son Josh is married to Laura and they live in Byron Center. Their son Jake is in law school at the University of Hawaii. Their daughter Sarah is in a masters program at University of Michigan. In their free time, Todd and Nancy like to ski and take their black lab for walks. They are sponsored by Kevin and Wendy Rebhan.

Juliann Hoekstra



Juliann Hoekstra joins by transfer from Harderwyk Ministries, Holland, MI along with her daughters, Piper (age 11) and Sydnee (age 6). Juliann has been with the Quality department of Perrigo (Holland) for 12 years. She enjoys photography, scrapbooking, reading, and being with her girls. Juliann's parents, Leon and Jackie Knoll, also attend Hope Church. The Hoekstra family is sponsored by Jeff and Cathy Green.

The Zomer Family



Joy Zomer joins by transfer from Christ Memorial Church, Holland, MI along with her daughter, **Ellie**. For the past 7 years, they have lived in the Holland area and Joy has worked for Hamilton Community Schools as an English teacher and Director of their flexible learning environment, Pioneer Tech High School. Joy also has two older children, Nicholaas and Katie. As a family, they enjoy camping, taking adventures, and trying new things. The Zomer family is sponsored by Jean DenHerder.

Paul & Michelle Heusinkveld



Paul & Michelle Heusinkveld join by reaffirmation of faith and profession of faith. They recently retired from the Department of State and returned to Holland. Prior to their retirement in December, Paul and Michelle worked in many embassies, mostly in the Arab World, and had seven tours in Washington DC. Two of their children, Karl and Tegan, are at Hope College. They look forward to settling into Holland and taking part in community activities. They are sponsored by Ed Anderson.

The Alsum Family



Hal Alsum & Sara Alsum-Wassenaar join by transfer from Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center, IA, along with their son Wendell. They recently moved back to Holland. Sara and Hal met while they were both living in Holland about 10 years ago but have since lived in Florida, Illinois, and Iowa. Sara grew up in Holland. Hal was born in Loveland, CO and later moved to Alton, IA. Sara attended Hope College (BA), GVSU (MA), and UIUC (MFA). Hal attended Northwestern College (BA) and UIUC (MBA). Sara is a professor of Design and New Media in the Art and Art History Department at Hope College. Hal is a part-time stay at home dad and works part-time at 3sixty, a neighborhood development organization in Holland. They enjoy finding organic farms to buy their food from, reading, biking, running, going to the beach, and watching Game of Thrones. They are sponsored by Becky Schmidt.

Arlan & Nancee Branderhorst



Nancee and Arlan Branderhorst join by transfer from Faith Reformed Church, Zeeland, MI. They grew up in Zeeland, Michigan and graduated from Zeeland High School. After high school, Arlan started working at a local factory, Hart and Cooley. He later earned a Certified Nurse Aid certificate and soon learned he had a passion for helping senior citizens with their daily living activities. Currently he is employed by Resthaven Care Center in Building Services. Nancee has been a nurse (LPN and RN) for 37 years. She graduated from Hope College in 1987 with her BSN degree. She has worked at Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, WI and various local nursing homes in the Holland/Zeeland area, home health agencies, along with Zeeland Community Hospital. For almost 2 years now, she has been employed by Alliance Home Health agency. Arlan and Nancee have 2 daughters, Abby is 27 and lives in Chicago where she is an RN. Emily is 24 and lives at home. She currently works at Target. She is planning on attending GRCC in the fall. They are sponsored by Dave & Margaret Boelkins.

Brad & Barbara Bright



Brad & Barbara Bright join by transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Glen Ellyn, IL. They moved to Holland in April, 2016. Brad is a retired computer software consultant and Barbara recently retired after a career in administration and facility management. They are sponsored by Kristine and Al Bradfield.

Boyd & Sara Wilson



Boyd and Sara Wilson join by reaffirmation of faith. Sara is a retired West Ottawa kindergarten teacher and Boyd is retired from 34 years of teaching World Religion at Hope College. Both are enjoying babysitting for their grandson Cooper whose mother, Becky Schmidt, is a member of Hope Church. They are sponsored by Sam and Jean Martin.

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.

What's Ahead: Outreach and Hospitality Ministry

Dee Dee Piers, Outreach and Hospitality Chair

An important role of the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry is promoting the commitment of Hope Church as a Room for All congregation. As such, we are delighted to be hosting the RfA National Conference 2017, "A Kaleidoscope of Intersections", beginning Thursday, September 28, at 3:00 p.m. and ending Saturday, September 30, at 12:30 p.m. This promises to be an exciting, exceptional conference!! Please mark your calendars and check the bulletin and Volunteer Blog for ways to become involved.

The O&H Ministry has supported the Holland Pride Festival since its inception. This year's festival takes place June 23-25, and Hope Church will once again have a presence at the Window On the Waterfront Festival on Saturday, June 24.

We also support the LGBTQ (GLOBE)

students on Hope's campus by supplying snacks for their meetings. If you are willing to share Christ's love by providing a snack for one of the GLOBE meetings, please contact the church office. Students are incredibly grateful for this gesture of kindness.

Reaching out to visitors and non-members in the Holland community and area to encourage their participation and membership in Hope Church is another piece of our mission.

We also work within the church to foster a sense of warmth, openness, and hospitality that will enrich the life of the church and promote interaction between members and visitors.

The ministry plans and coordinates the Orientation to Hope Church classes, new members and confirmation receptions, Sunday greeters,

production of the Hope Church News and the church directory, and media coverage. In addition, a Communications Task Force and Disability Concerns Task Force work under the umbrella of Outreach and Hospitality.

Upcoming Events:

- **Holland PRIDE Festival:** Saturday, June 24
- **RfA National Conference 2017:** September 28 – 30

Please join us! Our next meeting is Monday, August 21, at 4:00 pm.

Ministry members are Michael Kolk, Jean Martin, Dee Dee Piers (chair), Wendy Rebhan, and Judy Vander Wilt. Supporting members include Trish Gosselar and Audrianne Hill. Staff support: Megan Arevalo, Jill Russell, and Jocelyn VanHeest.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Fellowship Ministry.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Nursery Care

Nursery care will continue to be provided during the service during the summer. We have been so privileged to have Margaret Buckley as the main caregiver during this past year as we transitioned to our wonderful new space. We would appreciate some other people to take the opportunity to enjoy the youngest members of our congregation during the 10 a.m. service this summer. There will be a signup sheet in the Gathering Area or you may contact Jocelyn Van Heest if you have any questions. What a wonderful way to meet and enjoy the young families of Hope Church.

Summer Church School

Children ages 3 through those that have completed 2nd grade will leave the 10 a.m. service after the Word with the Children and meet in room 204. We will begin the summer celebrating special ways to share with God's family and learning ways to work, play and pray together that help to make each person feel the love of God and others. Through a variety of activities we hope to find ways to encourage us to be aware and to care.

Peace Camp

Children ages 5-10 are invited to attend Peace Camp which is a week long day camp during the week of July

17-21. The children will discover that peace begins with them! The camp is being held at First Presbyterian Church and they are inviting children from the community to come together to engage in a variety of fun activities and games that help them use peace building and conflict resolution skills that they will learn. They are also looking for adults to help with the camp and you may join Jocelyn Van Heest in that role. Families were sent information about this camp but if you have more questions please contact Jocelyn or visit their website www.fpcholland.org/peacecamp. I will be excited to see some Hope Church children there.

Kids Hope

Brad Bright, Kids Hope USA Mentor

For many years I sat in our church in Glen Ellyn, IL, listening to my fellow parishioners talk about their work with disadvantaged children. Their stories tugged at my heart and I always thought to myself – that’s something I could do once I retired. Last year that time came, and my wife Barbara and I moved to Holland. While visiting Hope Church last summer, once again I heard that same calling from Barb Joldersma as she talked about the Kids Hope USA program. I contacted her later that afternoon.

Though I wasn’t yet a church member, Barb welcomed me into the program. A week later I attended a training session for new mentors, during which Barb and Vicki Rumpsa led us through a Kids Hope notebook that I continue to go back to from time to time. They prepared us well for what was to follow, and over the course of this past school year I saw virtually everything we talked about during the training come to pass.

The only real suspense was who would I get? A boy? A girl? How old? Having three grandchildren in the 2nd, 4th, and 7th grades, I had some idea of the possibilities. But they are hardly disadvantaged children, and I was to be assigned an at-risk child. Then Barb told me I was paired with a 5th grade boy at Vanderbilt Charter Academy, and almost immediately I realized I had no idea what to expect. If he was a truly troubled child, a 10 year old boy could be a handful.

The following Tuesday afternoon, I went to the school, checked in at the office, and headed off to the 5th grade classroom. Any concerns I might have had melted away within minutes of meeting my Kids Hope charge.

We’re taught to respect the privacy of the children, so I’ll just refer to this marvelous young boy as Robbie.

I’d carefully planned our first session together, minute by minute, but quickly learned I needed to be more flexible, and that a natural flow to our time together would emerge. Every session is a mixture of academic and creative play activities, and relationship building. At first Robbie was heavily focused on getting help with his school work. As the weeks rolled along we seemed to be spending more and more time just getting to know each other, and I introduced Robbie to a new “special friend”, my prayer partner, Dorothy Sherburne. Dorothy and Robbie corresponded back and forth in a notebook throughout the year, asking and answering questions and sharing stories. Robbie was always looking forward to hearing from that “girl” friend of mine.

Typically, we’d always start with his school work, as I preached the virtue of handling must-do things first, before any play time. Remember that TV quiz show – Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader? There were times I wasn’t so sure. You’d be surprised at some of the things they are learning, and that’s not even counting the so called new math. Robbie was always amused when I would tell him I wasn’t quite sure of an answer, and he’s totally convinced that I can’t subtract. More than once I would awaken during the night when the right answer would finally pop into my mind.

By the middle of the school year Robbie’s focus had swung from academics to play. Kids Hope maintains a cabinet full of games and

we played most of them. A favorite memory is recalling Robbie telling me he didn’t want me to let him win a game of Connect Four – he said “I want you to come at me, hard”. The fact is that he won many of the games we played despite my honest efforts.

Throughout the year I tried to find creative ways to make learning fun. We’d read stories about his favorite sport, soccer, in the sports pages of the Holland Sentinel. We filled out March Madness brackets, and talked about colleges. We looked at my collection of foreign coins and located each of the counties on a map of the world. Tax Day this year fell on a Tuesday, so we even talked about taxes, what they are and what they pay for. Some things were more successful than others, but we always got through them and had fun. All the time we learned about each other, and I learned a lot about myself.

One last thing I’d like to share. I mentioned that I thought I had to wait until I was retired to do this. Imagine my surprise when two of the other new mentors in my training class were young parents with small children of their own. How could they possibly have the time or energy to do this? They must have already known what I learned this year – being a mentor is energizing, and brings rewards worth far more than the time invested. When people ask me what I’m doing now that I’m retired I always begin the list proudly with Kids Hope and that I’m mentoring a child. I’m confident that my grandchildren will find their way in the world. I’m praying that the time I spend with Robbie will help him do that as well.

Hope Church Participants to Review General Synod on June 18

Judy Parr, Adult Education Task force Chair

The 2017 General Synod of the Reformed Church in America will be held at Hope College June 8 to 13. Among those participating from Hope Church are Jim Brownson and Carol Bechtel as General Synod Professors, Larry Schuyler as Moderator and Secretary of the Commission on Church Order, Terry DeYoung as the RCA Coordinator for Disability

Concerns, Cindi Veldheer DeYoung as a member of the General Synod Council, Lois Maassen as an elder delegate representing Holland Classis, Kristen Gray as a delegate from the Commission on Women, and Jared Duimstra as a delegate from the Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education.

Several of these individuals will participate as panelists in a General Synod Review on June 18 at 11:15 a.m. in the Hope Church sanctuary. The review will be recorded and become available by CD (for limited circulation) from the church office after June 25.

Washington School Neighbors

Christen Bordenkircher, Neighborhood Connector

As Washington School Neighbors seeks to come alongside the neighbors here in our core city and empower them to achieve the kind of community that they envision, it is important to be reminded of our roots in **Asset-Based Community Development**. Some nonprofit organizations and NGO's might look at a community to identify a 'problem' and then through its own lens of cultural values and outside understanding, the organization determines a solution. With an approach of Asset-Based Community Development guiding us, we work with neighbors to identify their own assets from within the community so neighbors themselves can build upon what is already good and present. Our role, as an organization, is to invite, include, and affirm the gifts of each person in the community and create opportunities for those individuals and his/her gifts to be seen and enjoyed by others.

In the Washington School Neighborhood, there is an **abundance** of assets whether that is the asset of space provided through green spaces and the community gardens or the asset of sunshine during these summer months that invites neighbors to be outside more where they will more easily form relationships with those around them. Each individual neighbor has something beautiful and good to

contribute to the neighborhood as a whole whether that asset includes a part of their God-given personality or perhaps a skill or trade that can help others in the community to flourish. Each of our five partner churches bring their own unique assets to our community life together. What assets do you see in this neighborhood? What assets do you have that you could contribute to the flourishing of this community?

Upcoming Events + Ways to Get Involved

- **Saturday, June 3 from 10-11am** – composting workshop and discussion
- **Saturday June 3 from 3-5pm** – Neighborhood wide family-friendly scavenger hunt. Discover the assets of the neighborhood in a friendly competition between different neighbors organized by blocks! There will be prizes!! Sign up by emailing Christen!
- **Friday, June 9-Saturday June 10** – ROC Bike Ride for our neighborhood cyclists. Sign up to cycle and raise money for Washington School Neighbors OR help host the meal for the cyclists on **Friday at 6pm** at the community garden! Email Ruth Sill at ruthesill@sbcglobal.net for more information or to sign up!
- **Saturday, June 17 from 9:30-**

11am - Jam Making Event - RSVP to jeff@eighthdayfarm.org.

- **Saturday, July 15** – Mid-summer Turkish breakfast potluck. Experience a traditional Turkish breakfast in the gardens with items from our gardens! (potluck style – so email for a list of options to contribute!) RSVP to Christen at christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com.

Needs for Washington School Neighbors:

1. Donate a gift card or prize for our neighborhood-wide scavenger hunt!
2. Bike in the ROC bike ride or sponsor someone else cycling in this fundraising event!
3. Provide refreshments for a neighborhood gathering or block connector meeting.
4. Have a skill or trade that could benefit the community? Let us know!!!
5. If you live in the neighborhood, we'd love to have you participate as a block connector to intentionally reach out to the neighbors on your block and be a part of creating a more connected community.

Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet June 7, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Nancy VandeWater's daughter, Patti Bing.

Circle 2 will meet in Commons II on June 7, at 9:30 A.M.

Circle 4 will wind up the season at 6:00 pm on Weds., June 14, with a salad potluck at Judy Mastenbrook's home.

Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, June 21st, at 12:00 noon at the home of Jean McFadden. This will be a salad luncheon and we will choose our books for next year. Please bring a salad to share, and one book suggestion for our reading pleasure. Put the following on a 3x5 card and bring it with you to the meeting: Book Title, Author, Your name, Short book description. We do ask that you have read the book you propose, and that it will be available in paperback next year. (You do not need to have a book suggestion to attend the luncheon.) It is exciting to know the books that we will be reading next year before we leave that day. Look for a printed list of the books selected at the Welcome Desk in August.

Congregational Meeting: June 4

The consistory voted at their March meeting to extend a 2 1/2 year contract to Pastor Beth Carroll to serve as the assistant pastor of discipleship. Since this contract will change the 2017 budget, the consistory is calling a congregational meeting for June 4th following the 11 AM worship service to present a revised budget. The consistory sent a mailing to all church members in May in advance of this meeting that included a description of the vision for this position, a full job description, and the financial implications of this contract.

Pancakes R Us

Pancakes R Us had been planning to use our building on Saturdays from June - December, but they will no longer be doing that due to logistics

not working out on their end.

Pick Up Softball: June 23 & August 4

Save the dates: On **June 23** and **August 4**, we are going to have Friday Night "pick up" coed softball games at **6 pm**! Maple Avenue Ministries and Calvary Reformed Church will be joining us for these two games! We have reserved the new Laketown Township ballfield, located at 4338 Beeline Road in Laketown Township on the south side of Holland. Bring your softball gloves, and we'll provide the bats and balls! Spectators should bring chairs. Children are welcome to join us! After the game (at **7:15 pm**) we will go to the south side Village Inn on Washington Avenue for "refreshments." If it rains, we'll meet at Village Inn instead of playing ball. We hope to see you there! Please sign up in the gathering area!

Holland PRIDE Festival: June 23-25

The Holland PRIDE festival has three events! On Friday, June 23, from 7 pm - 10:30 pm, you're invited to a Murder Mystery Dinner and silent auction at the Holland Area Arts Council. Tickets are \$50 per person and include drinks, dinner, dessert, and coffee. On Saturday, June 24 from 12-4 PM at Window on the Waterfront, there will be an outdoor celebration with information booths, vendors, food, a kid area, and music! Hope Church will have a booth at the celebration. In the evening from 7:30 - 10:30 pm at Park Theatre, there will be a Pride Sock Hop with music by Delilah DeWylde and the Lost Boys, along with a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 per person. Finally, on Sunday, June 25 from 12-2 pm, there will be a Unity and Faith Gathering at Centennial Park. There will be a kids craft area, music, and a goodwill message. Bring your lunch and chairs/blankets - it is picnic style!

Pizza Sundays

The next Pizza Sundays are scheduled for June 25 and July 30.

Picnic at Moran Park

The Fellowship Ministry invites all of Hope Church to come to Moran Park on Sunday evening, July 16 beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a summer picnic, co-hosted by Maple Avenue Ministries and Calvary Reformed Church! The ministry will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers to grill, buns, chips, condiments, and lemonade; those coming are asked to please bring salads, side dishes, or desserts to share along with their picnic table service and lawn chairs. Grills will be provided. Consider bringing games to play. Please sign up in the gathering area!

Blueberry Pie Sales

The blueberry pie making and sale is scheduled for the weekend of August 11-13. Please watch the bulletin or emails for announcements about how you can assist with this project and order pies. The proceeds of this sale will be dedicated to the Haiti mission trip being planned for October.

Teusink's Farm Picnic - August 18

Save the date for a Hope Church picnic at Teusink's Pony Farm on Friday, August 18, 6-8:30pm. Details to come!

Tulip Time Parking Lot

The total collected from Tulip Time Parking was \$1,200.16! Thank you to those who helped staff the parking lot to help us raise money for the new youth ministry van: Dave Dirkse, Sally Winchester, Sue Rhoades, Earl Laman, Hal Alsum, Joyce Teusink, Anne Hoekman, David VanHeest, Jerry Van Heest, Jocelyn Van Heest, Judy Parr, Bill Parr, Kyle Vohlken, and Julie Clough!

Hospice of Holland

Hospice of Holland needs the help of hairstylist and massage therapy volunteers. Please contact Jodi at 616-446-5491 for further information.

Thank You

*Dear Hope Church Sisters and Brothers, the Family of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Grace and Peace to You!*

We are so thrilled to see the completion of Hope Church's renovation. Our prayers are with you while you are preparing for the Dedication Ceremony. We can only imagine how beautiful the dedication ceremony is going to be with the Tulip flowers. We are so thankful to God for the beautiful weather of Colorado. In our spare time, we ride our bikes to different parks. Even though we live in a very tense schedule, we keep our faith and unity to encourage each other. Our journey feels lonely; we face a lot of struggle inside and outside. But in these all, God's love is the source of our strength. Thank you for sharing our hopes and uncertainties. You are our joy and comfort, and we feel blessed to participate with you in God's mission. I have started my third and last quarter of the year. The courses I am taking are more philosophical than theological, so I am learning how to use my voice with and beyond other voices.

Peace,

~Rode Molla and Endrias Assen

Dear Hope Church,

We at Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates would like to thank you for your extremely generous Easter offering donation. Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates is nonprofit immigration legal services provider located in Holland, serving the entire West Michigan community, from Berrien County to Grand Traverse County. Since we opened our doors in November 2015, we have served over 450 West Michigan families. We provide a variety of direct legal services, such as family reunification, victim services, citizenship, work permit and green card renewal, and Refugee services. We also provide outreach and advocacy services in the form of clinics, educational presentations, collaboration with and support of other agencies serving immigrants and refugees, and many other great services. Because Lighthouse's programs grew so quickly in so little time, our fundraising efforts have not been able to keep up with demand. As a result, we find ourselves understaffed, underpaid, and overworked (probably true of most all nonprofit organizations!). Hope Church's generous donation will allow Lighthouse to finally hire a part-time office assistant to provide administration support to our staff. This is something we've needed for a very long time and your donation of \$4,200 will cover over HALF of the salary for this employee! (We are still seeking to fill the position, so if you know of anyone--must be bilingual in English and Spanish--please refer them to Lighthouse.) So, again, thank you for your generosity, your support, and your desire to serve the least of these.

Best wishes,

~Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout, Executive Director and Managing Attorney at Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates

Thank you so much for the wonderful reception celebrating the years we have spent together nurturing the children of Hope Church. I appreciated so much the support from those directly involved in my work and the people of this congregation. I will cherish the wooden bowl as a reminder of the all the people and connections I have to Hope Church.

Thank you,

~Jocelyn Van Heest

JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

June 30 Ruth Green

June 30 Betty Gordon

July 14 Lois Boersma

July 17 Dorothy Sherburne

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

Brim Bunch

Brim Bunch will hold an indoor picnic on June 22, 2017 at 6:00 in the Commons. Picnic food will be BBQ pork on a bun, potato salad, Amish coleslaw, watermelon and Klondyke bars. Kathy Sheridan, a Hope Church member, and board member of CDS, will give an update on the day care center which meets at Hope Church. The picnic will be held rain or shine, hot or cold - wear picnic attire. Pay \$8 at the door. The bus will run from Freedom Village.

Nature and Wellbeing

Peter Boogaart, Hope Church Member

Close your eyes for a moment. Relax. Sit quietly. Then, recall a time when, for you, everything felt right. For most people, this exercise returns them to childhood. Let yourself recall and describe the place where you were when you felt this way. You may be surprised to discover just how vivid and tactile the memory is. For many people this place will be outdoors and include a tree.

Those of you who actually stopped reading and engaged the memory exercise (I understand the compulsion) returned to a numinous place where heaven and earth intersect. The Celtic people called these "thin places." Our deepest longings and highest hopes are built on the reality of such places. Christian scriptures often catalogue them: Eden—walking in the garden; Jacob's ladder; Tabernacle—God tenting within our camp; and Emanuel—God with us.

Numinous experience isn't so common anymore; not that it couldn't be—we just tend to live in ways that preclude the possibility. The consequence is one of feeling empty, not-right, dislocated, and dissatisfied. And of course, emptiness needs to be filled up. Our consumer culture is very good at doing just that. All that filling

up, however, fills in the thin places. Hungry for what cannot satisfy, we end up even more dissatisfied.

One of the ways of dealing with this dilemma is to return to that childhood memory. Where were you? What was around you when you did feel that all things were working together for good? Many people will say, "I was outdoors. I was in nature." Cultural anthropologists tell us that we now spend ninety percent of our time indoors. We're cut off from the places where we could feel well. Moving from house, to attached garage, to air-conditioned car, to work—we miss the sun, rain, and clouds. We're experiencing what author Richard Louv calls nature-deficit disorder.

Louv is in the vanguard of those calling for a reconnection with nature. All the research is now indicating that some engagement with the natural world is necessary for healthy human development, for acquisition of social skills, and for spiritual formation. Not to be outflanked, our commercial culture has responded by packaging nature as a product (you just have to pay for it): think Caribbean cruise, motor home, road trip (with Wi-Fi hot spots), or "greatest vacation ever!"

Reconnecting with nature won't come "naturally" for us; we're in a place that the Bible calls alienation. This is, however, exactly where the grace of God intercedes. For Christians, the Good News isn't so much a formula as an invitation. The voice we hear from God says, "You're going the wrong way. Turn around." For us that turning might begin with a walk after dinner, bicycling to work, gardening

Upcoming Caring for Creation Event:
Macatawa Water Festival at Windmill Island. 07/15/2017 - 9:00am - 1:00pm. Free admission for all ages. The Macatawa Water Festival, presented by Meijer, will be held on Holland's Windmill Island. Over 30 community partners and sponsors will come together to offer water activities and educational experiences designed to engage both young and old to learn about restoring and preserving our lake and watershed. People will be able to kayak, canoe, and bike around the island while exploring and learning about the great outdoors. Other activities include trout fishing (under 17 yrs old), learning about native and invasive plants, performing water quality experiments, and learning about water filtration and pollutants.

Holland Quaker Meeting Moves to Hope Church Chapel

Larry Dickie, Clerk, Holland Friends Meeting

For the next several months Holland Friends Meeting (Quakers) will be worshipping in Hope Church's new chapel. Our regular meeting room at Western Seminary will be part of a major renovation project and we are grateful to Hope Church for welcoming us during this time.

Our first meeting date will be Sunday, June 18 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am with a period of conversation following until about 11:30 am. We meet for worship the first and third Sundays each month (and the fifth if there is one). While Quakers have a variety of meeting formats, ours is silent worship, though on occasion a spoken ministry may arise from the silence. Like Hope Church we are an open

and affirming meeting and all are welcome, especially any from the Hope congregation who may wish to join us from time to time. There will be a sign board on the sidewalk guiding Friends to the South entrance near the chapel.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Quakerism, Quaker worship or the use of this space please feel free to contact me in person or by phone or email. And again many thanks.

Larry Dickie, Clerk
Holland Friends Meeting
616-566-7905 or lawrencedickie@gmail.com

and finally

"It takes a village to raise a child." This African proverb, which Hillary Clinton famously cited in her 1996 book, has become a turn of phrase used frequently by many of us who are parents and educators. Raising children is complicated, especially when so much vies for their attention. Children and youth need healthy community just as much as they need healthy families. Certainly, Hope Church has some wonderfully gifted leaders, professional and volunteer alike, who guide our youth and children in classes and events, but there are also tangible ways all of us can encourage and care for young people. In fact, studies done by the FullerYouth Institute demonstrate that churches in which older adults actively engage with youth, are highly likely to have young people who stay with the church when they become adults. Take a look at these 5 ideas I posted here and see if any resonate with you as ways you can invest in our young people.

1. Go to their sporting events, plays, and concerts. Having an adult, especially one who is not paid to care for them, show up to an area of passion makes youth feel important and validates that their gifts are not just something fun, but something larger that edifies the church. Want to go to an event? Rick Smith is trying to organize adults in this capacity. Pastor Beth also tries to keep a running tally of who is in what activity, so email her for ideas.
2. Provide snacks and food for youth events. High Hopes and Fish Club are always looking for food for our Sunday evening church events. Even more so, we need adults who are willing to host pool parties, cook outs, and progressive dinners. Hospitality is one of the most powerful ways to make anyone feel they belong at church and youth are no exception.
3. Speak up for what you believe. Believe it or not, one of the biggest reasons the Pew Research Center cites as why millennials leave the church is that the church doesn't care for the same areas of passions they do. Our Hope Church youth are passionate people. They organize political rallies, are active in LGBTQ clubs at school, and have deep thoughtful opinions on the political landscape of our country. When you demonstrate your care for the same issues, they see come to see God as the author of these passions and not an obstacle.
4. Empower them to be leaders. Are you looking for new ministry ideas for our community? Are you looking for new Sunday School class subjects? Are you even looking for ways to tweak worship on Sunday mornings? Don't just ask youth to volunteer, ask for their leadership or opinions. Youth are not to be thought of as the church of tomorrow, this is *their church today*. Programming and ministries should reflect this.
5. Volunteer your time. It is a myth that youth leaders need to be young and full of energy. In fact, FullerYouth Institute shows that one of the keys to youth retention is that adults of all ages, but especially retired adults, invest their time as youth sponsors. Both Fish Club and High Hopes are actively looking for leaders who can meet twice a month on Sundays. But we are also looking for a roster of volunteers who can assist with one off projects like chaperoning retreats and summer trips, driving us to amusement park trips, and helping us with fundraisers.

Do you feel as if you have something to offer not listed here? I welcome your creativity! Please contact me with any gifts or thoughts on how you can become more involved. Would you like to read up more on some of these statistics? The books *Growing Young*, by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin, and *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren are excellent resources.

Peace,
~Pastor Beth



Hope Church News

June/July 2017



Haiti Mission Trip in October

Ben Sikkink, deacon

Plans are being made for another mission trip to Haiti in conjunction with the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty. The trip will be for one week in early October with the exact dates yet to be determined. The main focus of the trip will be to assist Diane Lenox, HFAP's sponsorship director, in her semi-annual updates of information about the students at Les Bours School and children of HFAP staff members. It could include such things as measuring height, weight, and shoe size; taking photographs; bagging and giving each child rice and beans, leading a class in arts and crafts or other activities while each individual child is having their information taken; and other similar things. Depending on the size and composition of the group, we could also visit both the orphanage and House of the Dying (hospice) run by the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's order), make and distribute peanutbutter sandwiches for the entire student body at Les Bours and perhaps into the neighborhood, purchase and deliver a bed to a needy family, visit the Gift of Hope women's sewing program of HFAP, and perhaps small handyman projects in the Hope House compound where we will be staying.

Costs for the trip will be in the \$1600-1800 range depending on airplane ticket prices at that time. That includes the flights, all transportation, lodging and meals while in Haiti with the possible exception of a sight-seeing tour or meal at a Haitian resort and any souvenirs you wish to buy. Financial assistance is available from the church so that anyone who wishes to be part of this trip is welcome to join; please contact either of the pastors about this. For more information about this trip and to indicate your interest please contact Ben Sikkink.