



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 60, No. 8

December 2017

In This Issue

Advent.....	2-3
Adult Education	3
New Members.....	4
Holland Energy Fund.....	5
WSN Update.....	6
Children's Ministry.....	7
Christian Education	7
Caring for Creation.....	8
Events & Announcements	8-9
Kids Hope.....	10
Inventing America	10
And Finally.....	11

Inserts:

- *December Calendar*
- *Advent 2017*
- *Lectionary*
- *Restorative Circles Facilitator List*

The deadline for the
January newsletter is
Wednesday,
December 13.

Office Hours

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

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Christmas Offering: Hurricane Relief with RCA Churches in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Rev. Peter TeWinkle, Pastor of St. Croix Reformed Church, Kingshill, U.S. Virgin Islands

Hurricane Irma struck the US Virgin Islands in the first week of September devastating St. Thomas and St. John. My flight to St. Croix was delayed as a result of its path into Florida. On September 12, we landed in St. Croix and were met by piles of debris, some loss of power, but relative normalcy. Just three days later, I received a call from a caring member of St. Croix Reformed Church telling us to get ready. The urgency in her voice made it clear that the approaching hurricane would not be an easy introduction. On the evening of September 19, Category 5 Hurricane Maria struck the island of St. Croix as if taking care of unfinished business.

Two months later, 73% of the USVI is still without power (81% on St. Croix). Those who are privileged enough to afford it have been able to purchase generators that allows for some running water, lights, and refrigeration throughout the day. There are promises of 90% restoration by Christmas but a recent article suggest full restoration won't be until April 2018. 48,000 electrical poles need replacing and miles of wires need to be run, so we'll see. Most disconcerting is the impact the hurricane had on the hospital and the schools. Sections of the hospital were condemned. Portable units have been brought in, but services are limited. Eight of the public schools have been condemned which means that students have only recently been back in class and for only half days as they share limited classroom space.

The storm was devastating to say the least,

but it exasperated problems on an already under-resourced (and perhaps mismanaged) island. Mental health resources, care for the elderly, and employment have been urgent needs before and especially since the storm. The poverty rate here is 22%. So, while the temporary help supplied by FEMA and non-profits has helped people steady themselves, significant repairs will be needed for the long term. That's when you will be needed most. Not surprisingly, the predominantly white congregation of SCRC has been able to weather the storm quite well. We are blessed to have families with resources to send package after package to break the monotony and provide some creature comforts from home.

So, I would add that you consider adding advocacy to your charity. Our neighbors and residents of the island are American citizens. Ironically, considering the United States' fight for independence, they have no representation. These remnants of colonialism have a psychological, social, and economic impact that must be addressed. The Dutch West India Company, financial backers of the Dutch Reformed Church expansion into the states, traded in human beings through these islands making the RCA direct beneficiaries of slavery. Perhaps that makes us all the more responsible. Descendants of those slaves live on these islands today as second-class citizens of a forgotten island. You can remember them.

That said, this is an incredibly resilient island. Our neighbors, many of whom experienced

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Hurricane Hugo in 1989, were quick with advice and to offer avocado and other produce that flourishes in our own yards to help us get through those first weeks of curfew. The foliage was back and flowers bloomed within a month of being stripped bare. Restaurants are open. Grocery store shelves are reliably stocked. Two months in, debris

is now cleared from our neighborhood in preparation for restoration of power. In other words, we see signs of hope and recovery weekly, if not daily. Your kind offer to support us through the Christmas offering is another of those signs. We trust that you will be blessed in your blessing.

Christmas Cards for our Members

Continuing an Advent tradition, decorated gift bags will be on the pegboards in the Gathering Area. They will be delivered by Hope Church carolers on December 17 for those who live local. Enrich your Advent season by sharing Christmas cards with these members:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Dave & Char Alexander | • Eleanor Hopkins | • Pellebon-Smith Family: Fronse |
| • LeVada Bombe | • Elsie Howard | & Germaine, Rosetta, Etiene |
| • Peg Danhof | • Phil Landes | • Barbara Stockman |
| • Dan DeGraaf | • Mary Martin | • Trudy VanderHaar |
| • Helen DeWeerd | • Duncan McCune | • Terry VandeWater |
| • John DeWeert | • Dick & Norma Noordijk | • Rowland & Jane Van Es |
| • Peggy Fitzgerald | • Don Proechel | • Ruth VanKampen |
| • Marjorie French | • Leola Ralph | • Josh & Nicolay Vis |
| • Betty Gordon | • Stan Rock | • Lila Vohlken |
| • Eddie Haworth | | • Ruth Vrieling |

Tree of Light 2017: A Different Kind of Giving

As in past years, Hope Church is supporting families within our community in helping with Christmas gifts for children and parents. But different this year, is that we will simply be asking you to purchase and contribute \$25 gift cards along with a Christmas card. The process will go like this:

Hope Church Christmas Gift Card Project

1. *Remove a tag from the tree*
2. *Purchase a \$25 gift card and a greeting card from Meijer, Target, or Walmart*
3. *Write greetings and blessings for the Holidays and New Year in the card*
4. *Place gift card in the envelope with greeting card. **DO NOT SEAL ENVELOPE***
5. *Return **UNSEALED** envelope with contents and return it to the Tree of Light*
6. *Deadline is **Sunday, December 17***
7. *Hope Church will deliver all cards within our community. Our goal is **fifty** gift cards!*

In the past, I know that many of us have enjoyed shopping for and wrapping presents to bring back to put under the tree, and it's wonderful to see the many presents at Hope

Church. This is a good thing, but some feedback we've received from local agencies has guided us to another good way to do things too. Rather than receiving purchased presents, many organizations now are requesting that gift cards be donated so that parents can make decisions together about gifts for their families. Just as we do, these parents would enjoy the opportunity to go shopping and to wrap presents for their families. Just as we do, these parents enjoy knowing that the gifts under their tree reflects some of their love and individual attention. So we realize that it may not be quite as enjoyable initially for us to purchase "just" gift cards, but what we can all do is consider the extra joy we are providing to those who are empowered to make choices about their family Christmas celebration. And please note - the personal Christmas card that you send is a very important part of this project! Please make a point to express your greetings of love and joy for the season, which will be a gift of support and blessing for our neighbors. God's blessings to all of you for your generosity in supporting this project, as we join together our gifts and prayers to express the love of Jesus Christ in our community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Additional Advent Opportunities

Saint Nicholas Breakfast

Please join us before worship at **10:00 am** on **Sunday, December 10** to celebrate a Saint Nicholas Breakfast. Children will meet Saint Nicholas during worship and be able to visit with him during the breakfast. We will enjoy scrambled eggs, pig-in-a-blankets, and oranges. Please have children bring an extra shoe to leave for Saint Nicholas to fill with a treat. **Call the office to sign up!**

Gift of Hope Sale

This program of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty trains women in sewing, jewelry making and crocheting. Products from these women will be available for purchase throughout the morning on December 3. Your purchase of these items provides much-needed income to these women which allows them to provide food and shelter to themselves and their children and is often the difference between the mothers being able to keep their children or giving them to an orphanage. Sample products can be seen at giftofhopehaiti.org.

Advent Organ Recital

This Advent, Rhonda's annual Advent recital will take place on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4pm. Childcare will be available, the concert will last about an hour, and be free of charge, so invite your friends. As in previous years, there will be a combination of solo organ music, congregational hymns for the season, and chamber music.

The piece Rhonda is most excited about this year is by Frank Martin (1890-1974), a Swiss composer who spent most of his life in the Netherlands. His musical style is influenced by the times in which he lived - sometimes dissonant and often quite intense, having survived both World Wars, but is also full of lyricism and beauty. With Julie Sooy, prof of flute at Hope College, and local soprano Anna Cornier, we will be performing Martin's Chants de Noel - three movements based on Christmas texts.

Julie and Rhonda will also play arrangements of other Advent and Christmas hymns, and Rhonda will play Advent and Christmas-based organ works from Bach to modern living composers - Rachel Laurin from Canada, and Bert Matter from the Netherlands.

Please note: On **Dec. 10**, there will be a second bus pick up at 3:35 pm at Freedom Village, and 3:40 pm at Warm Friend.

Young Adult Open House

If you are post high school to age 30, in Holland for Christmas, please come to a special Christmas Eve Reception on Sunday, Dec. 24. It will be in the Hope Church Gathering Area from 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. before the Candlelight Service in the sanctuary. There will be cookies, cider and hot chocolate! Reconnect with past members of Fish Club and High Hopes!

More information regarding Advent services and activities can be found in the **enclosed insert**.

Adult Education: December

December 3 & 17, 9:40am-10:30am

Pastors Jill Russell and Gordon Wiersma will lead a bible study on the lectionary texts for these two Sundays in Advent.

Advent Bible Study

Season of Reconciliation Book Study: January 17, 24, 31

Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31, 6:45pm-8:00pm: *Healing the Heart of Democracy* by Parker Palmer.

This book offers the call for "the courage to create a politics worthy of the human spirit" as Palmer brings a spirituality of compassion and hope to the political divisiveness of our time. Palmer explores 5 "habits of the heart" to foster creative capacity in the daily connections of family, congregation and community which can be brought to our political convictions.

All are invited to be a part of this study, and books will be available throughout the month of December and in early January. The books and a sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Area. Our Wednesday schedule will begin with coffee and dessert followed by an hour of discussion.

Hope Church Welcomes New Members

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on November 19 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Please take the time to welcome these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

Gene Ryan



Gene Ryan joins by transfer from Fort Plain Reformed Church, Fort Plain, NY. Gene is graduating from Hope College in December 2017. He will be working toward his Masters of Divinity at Western Theological Seminary beginning in January 2018. Gene has worked at Camp Fowler, in Speculator, NY for three years. He enjoys reading, watching the New York Rangers Hockey Team, and hiking in the Adirondacks. Gene's mother, Rev. Nancy Ryan, is a pastor in the RCA. He is sponsored by Dave Van Doorne.

Bob & Susanne Jordan



Bob & Susanne Jordan join by transfer from Second Christian Reformed Church in Fremont, MI. Upon their recent retirement, Bob and Susanne decided to move from Fremont to Holland. Bob had worked in fund development and donor services at the Fremont Area Community Foundation, and Susanne was an adoption social worker at Bethany Christian Services in Fremont and Muskegon. Bob and Susanne have two grown children, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren. If Susanne looks familiar to some of you, it is because her older (by 4 minutes!) twin sister is Leanne Van Dyk, a former member of Hope Church. Bob and Susanne enjoy bicycling, traveling, reading, and taking care of their grandchildren. They are sponsored by John Schmidt and Dawn Boelkins.

Moira Poppen Gargano



Moira Poppen Gargano joins by reaffirmation of faith. She is the adopted daughter of Alvin and Geraldine Poppen, 1959 from Hong Kong. She attended Hope College and was taught by wonderful professors, Don Luidens (it was Don, who suggested she go to seminary), Jane Dickie, and David Myers. She taught English as a second language at universities in China, Virgin Islands, and New Jersey and tutored ESL in Puerto Rico. As a pastor's spouse she has served to develop youth, elderly, education, and music ministries. Her husband Jeff, is still pastor of the Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, NY. Her daughter, Rachael was born in China, and her son, Nathan, was born in the Virgin Islands. Her family has bought their very first home in Holland! She is enjoying her new jobs with Resthaven and Comfort Keepers as a Care Companion. She walks her family dog, Winston about 4 hours every day! She is sponsored by Mark and Ann Sneller.

Cassie Nelson-Rogalski



Cassie Nelson-Rogalski joins by transfer from Pillar Church in Holland, MI, with her husband Matt. She hails from the southern suburbs of Chicago and completed her undergraduate degree in Music Education at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL in 2015. She and her husband Matt moved to Holland that fall for him to begin his seminary journey. While she was teaching music their first year up here, God also called her to seminary. She has just completed the first of three years at Western Theological Seminary. After she completes her Master of Divinity, she plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Liturgical Theology. Her goal is to end up teaching at the undergraduate or seminary level. She is sponsored by Kari Miller Fenwood.



Pictured are two Hope Church members: Anne Saliers, Community Energy Services Manager; and Peter Boogaart, Residential Energy Advisor. Congratulations! Peter Boogaart will retire from his work with the city on December 1.

Holland Energy Fund Wins Governor's Energy Excellence Innovator of the Year Award

Holland Energy Fund, a nonprofit corporation that supports Holland's long-range Community Energy Plan, was recognized as "Innovator of the Year" at the Governor's Energy Excellence Awards (GEEA) for its energy waste reduction achievements.

Holland Energy Fund was one of eight winners announced by Gov. Rick Snyder and honored at a ceremony in Detroit on October 19.

"Holland Energy Fund was incorporated as a non-profit in 2015 and supports the Holland Community Energy Plan, a 40-year path to the city becoming a world-class leader in energy security, affordability, sustainability, and efficiency," said Anne Saliers, community energy services manager, Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW).

To reach the goal, Holland Energy Fund's Home Energy Retrofit Program offers a 10 percent rebate to City of

Holland homeowners for investing in "deep" energy upgrades. It also offers low fixed-interest loans that residents can conveniently pay back on their Holland BPW electric bill.

"It's the first on-bill financing program for improving home efficiency and comfort in Michigan," said Mayor Nancy DeBoer, City of Holland. "As a City that prides itself on being forward-thinking, it's truly special we've been awarded the Innovator of the Year award for pioneering these unique programs."

The GEEA winners' energy solutions ranged from improving existing structures with energy-efficient state-of-the-art heating cooling and lighting systems to constructing new buildings, all with a goal of reducing energy waste and improving overall sustainability.

"Reducing energy waste, along with ensuring energy reliability and

advancing clean energy, is a key component of Michigan's energy policy," said the governor. "We're proud of the steps taken by the individuals and organizations we're honoring, because collectively they illustrate what can be done to reduce energy waste and save money, both of which strengthen Michigan's economy."

Nominations were made in one of eight categories celebrating differing ways in which energy efficiency can be achieved in the state of Michigan. The award categories include:

- Best Projects (commercial, residential, public, industrial/manufacturing, and agriculture)
- Innovator of the Year
- Contractor of the Year
- Best Communication or Education Program

Washington School Neighbors: My New Role

Lisa Kasten, Neighborhood Connector



Washington School Neighbors

Introducing Neighborhood Connector Lisa Kasten

I have lived in the Holland Historic District since April of 1996. I have watched families and individuals grow here and formed friendships that have continued through our children. There was always a deeper desire to see people connect outside of our small little worlds and share in community life. This summer I was asked if I wanted to tend a plot at the community gardens. I was excited that a program like this was happening so close to my home, so I jumped at the chance to be a part of this. The gardens are run by the nonprofit organization, Washington School Neighbors (WSN). Their main area of outreach is an area defined by River

Ave to Kollen Park Drive and from 8th Street to 13th Street. I have lived within this organization's outreach area and did not even realize the work they have been doing in collaboration with area businesses and churches, and of course the residents.

The garden provided an opportunity for me to teach my children about where our food comes from, how it grows and even more beneficial, that there is a world outside our front door where neighbors desire to live in community life with one another. I started meeting new neighbors, sharing our stories and also our desires for the neighborhood. We cared for each other's garden plots and shared in the harvest when it was time.

A dear friend started working with Washington School Neighbors in April and had encouraged me to become more involved. I lived in the target area and had created relationships with it's residents over the last 21 plus years. She felt I could offer a perspective that would benefit other residents.

I started working for WSN in October and it has been wonderful. I have had an opportunity to take what I have learned about my neighborhood over the last two decades and participate in furthering the vision of living life in community. The churches, businesses and residents that make up this area care deeply about the quality of life for all who live here. This is not a club, or join by membership organization. I am so excited to see what the future of Washington School Neighbors holds. We have already seen over 200 neighbors attend events just through this summer alone. And 24 households were able to take part in the two community gardens.

We have a long way to go, until we can reach all the neighbors, businesses and churches that desire to partner with us to build this vision of community life. There are gifts within all of us that just need a chance to be encouraged, people who need a venue to be heard and if we can provide opportunities for growth, then we have a chance to strengthen the neighborhoods that anchor our great City of Holland.

I am so very thankful to play a role in this process of connecting lives to strengthen neighborhoods.

~Lisa will be working along with Neighborhood Connector Christen Bordenkircher.

Upcoming Events:

- **Holiday Card Photo Session Fundraiser on Saturday, December 2, 1-4pm at WSN Community Gardens** : Capture your family photo this holiday season while supporting and sustaining the important work of Washington School Neighbors! Sign up for a 5 minute portrait session time by emailing christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com for a list of available session times. One image for \$25 donation, two images for \$50 or three images for \$75 donation to the vital community work of Washington School Neighbors. Thank you!

WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com

Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Christmas Ornaments for the Children

Each year the younger children (pre-school through elementary ages) are encouraged to take an ornament home with them from Hope Church. These ornaments will be available from the tree displayed in the Gathering Area and will be available beginning December 10th. Enjoy them on your tree at home.

Church School

The church school children will be participating in some special Advent activities during the season. They will be learning about how God's family had been waiting and anticipating the coming of the Christ child. On December 10th they will be attending the St. Nicholas breakfast celebration along with their families.

Special schedule note: There will be no church school on December 24th or 31st.

Children in Worship

As we begin the Advent season the worship centers are changing to the color of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The purple cloths are being displayed, the Advent wreaths are being lit, songs of waiting are being sung and we are listening to the stories of the prophets and the angels telling of the coming of our Lord. Each week, the stories being told in each worship center are printed in the bulletin and we invite you to engage a child in conversation about their worship experience.

Children in Worship will meet each Sunday in Advent. The children will

remain in the sanctuary on December 31st for the family service except for the pre-school and K-1st grade worship centers.

Special Notes about Advent Activities

- Please remember to sign up for the St. Nicholas brunch by December 3.
- We especially encourage young families to go caroling with other Hope Church members. They love to see the children!
- Our unrehearsed pageant will be enjoyed at the Family Christmas Eve service. Costumes will be available Sunday mornings on December 17 and 24. We hope this will make the day a little easier for your families.

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.

Christian Education Ministry

Megan Marthens, Christian Education Co-Chair

Members: Co-Chairs: Sarah Kolk & Megan Marthens, Kristine Bradfield, Margaret Buckley, Judy Parr. Staff Support: Beth Carroll, Jocelyn VanHeest, Gordon Wiersma

The goal of the Christian Education Ministry is to help Hope Church members and friends to grow and deepen their faith, as we all seek to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The ministry seeks to celebrate Hope's diversity, to become even more faithful to the vision of Jesus and to assist the church in becoming a mission center in our community and world. The ministry is carried out with a focus on: adults, young adults, youth, and children. A year's activities can include:

- Sunday morning adult education on a variety of biblical and contemporary issues
- mid-week groups studying current topics relating to the church and her mission
- learning and service opportunities for youth
- opportunities for families to fellowship together
- weekly Children in Worship
- a commitment to a Church School curriculum with a reformed foundation that presents the church family with ever new opportunities

The Adult Education Ministry including new ministry opportunities focused on Young Adults, functions under the

umbrella of the Christian Education Ministry. (Hope Church website, 2017)

We have enjoyed our "Growing Season" during the late summer/fall months in our Worship Centers. We are now anticipating the coming Season of Advent. Our children and youth will hear the stories of Jesus's birth in their Worship Centers, as well as look at how we can provide for those in need during this season of giving. As we look to the New Year, the Christian Education Ministry will begin work on our mobile library carts. Please look for more details to follow on this topic. Our ministry always welcomes new members. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Kolk or Megan Marthens.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry.

Events and Announcements

Winter Cancellations

Be sure to check the Hope Church website blog and Facebook for any cancellations due to weather!

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet on Wednesday December 6th at the home of Roberta Kraft.

Circle 2 will meet in Commons II on December 6, at 9:30 A.M.

Circle 4's Potluck Christmas Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 13 at Kathy Sheridan's home. Kathy's address is 390 Fairhill Court, Holland, Michigan. If you are a member of Circle 4 and are not able to attend the dinner please call Kathy. Guests are welcome at the dinner but please let Kathy know if you are bringing a guest with you. This is a potluck dinner so please bring a side dish to pass, as well as a wrapped Christmas tree ornament for our gift exchange.

Coffee Time at Freedom Village

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 Freedom Village on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are

welcome!

Brim Brunch

Brim Bunch will gather on December 14 at 6:00 pm for its Christmas dinner and program. The dinner menu is pork roast, rosemary potatoes, broccoli-brown rice casserole, church baked rolls, Marilyn's cranberries and a Christmas dessert. Pay \$8 at the door. The program is Dan Fisher sharing his amazing musical talents. Did you know that he has made a recording with the London Symphony and also the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra? He will share his history of musical composition. Nancy Rock will MC and tell a Christmas story. Wear your Christmas finery. The Freedom Village bus will run. If bad weather is predicted and Brim Bunch is cancelled you will be called.

December Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for December 17.

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 1:00pm in Commons II. Karmen Kooyers will lead our discussion of the book, When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kolonithi. New members are always welcome! If you would like more information, call Lauren Heyboer.

The church office will be closed on **Monday, Dec. 25** for the Christmas holiday, and on **Monday, Jan. 1** for the New Year's Day holiday.

2018 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes for 2018 offerings will be available for pick-up in the Gathering Area in late December. They are displayed alphabetically. If you are unable to be in worship and need your envelopes mailed, please call the office. Special envelopes for the initial offering and for contributions to the Deacons Fund are enclosed, as well as envelopes for special holiday offerings. You are encouraged to use your envelopes as this saves time when the offering is counted.

At Home with the Word 2017-2018

An electronic version of the daily Bible readings for the coming year (Advent 2017-Advent 2018) can be found on the Hope Church website. Printed copies are available at the Advent table in the gathering area.

Interfaith Cookie Exchange

December 9th, 1:00pm-2:30pm at the Herrick District Library.

New Leadership for Caring for Creation

The Community Ministry is pleased to announce a new leadership team for Caring for Creation. Peter Boogaart, Josh Bochniak, and Avril Wiers bring a diversity of interests, expertise, and backgrounds to the work. This from Avril on behalf of the team: "We will be planning ways for you to connect with and care for creation in 2018, providing opportunities to learn more about sustainability, recreation, and nature. Look for our calendar of events posted in the Gathering Area in the new year, as well as our blog posts on current events. If you have any inspirations, please feel free to contact us!"

Thank You

Thank you for sponsoring Holland Pride. Your generous donation made this year's Pride event possible. All proceeds benefit the Out on the Lakeshore center. We personally thank you for being the change.

~Sara & Michele Driesenga, Holland Pride Chairs

Dear Hope Church,

Thank you once again for your generosity in opening your doors on Women's Service Day. Our event is a success because of our ability to make lunch and serve over 150 volunteers from our community. We appreciate your flexibility and willingness to be part of WSD.

~Sincerely, Christine, Michele, Lindsey, Cindy, Marcia, Angie, Kallie, Lois, Nancy, Carrie, and Avril

Dear Hope Church family,

You have all been so helpful to me with your prayers and expressions of sympathy at Bob's death. Pastors Gordon and Jill and Ginger Clark, our parish nurse, have made numerous visits to Bob at Freedom Village Inn and to me at our apartment. They, and all of you, have brought God's love and comfort to us both.

~With prayerful thanks, Rita Snow

Dear friends:

Just a thank you to all who made the RfA Conference a smashing success. The reception at Hope was unprecedented. A special thanks to the kitchen crew. I am still trying to lose the pounds I had gained but it was worth every calorie.

~Blessings, Don Jiskoot

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

20 Betty Arendshorst

29 Helen DeWeerd

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

Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director



I would like to introduce to you our Kids Hope "Family" for the 2017/2018 school year. The following people will be mentoring at the school 1 day a week and building a relationship that truly makes difference in their child's lives. Linda Cook, Dave Boelkins, Barb Blauw, Barb Knoop, Rhonda Edgington, Sandy Mulder, Connie Vandervelde, Tim Pennings, Brad Bright, Stephanie Beyer, John

Beyer, Steve Berry, Andrew Bredow and Bob Jordan.

Kids Hope USA believes that what makes their program so successful is that each mentor and student is backed up by prayer. The following Hope members are on our prayer team this year: John & Stephanie Beyer, Jill Russell, Stephanie Krom, Mary Buys, Jane Schuyler, Dorothy Sherborne, Jan Fike, Kari Miller Fenwood, Dave Van Doorne, Judy Mastenbrook, Connie VanderVelde, Sandy Mulder, Josh Bochniak and Anne Anderson.

Helping make sure that our Kids Hope kids see someone every week even when their mentor can't be there are the following subs: Sharon Arendshorst, Carole Hintz, Barb Joldersma and Josh Bochniak.

As you can see it "takes a village" to make this program work and I am so appreciative of everyone who is involved. We could always use more help though and here are the current needs:

1. Someone to sub for a 3rd grade boy on Tuesday at 10:30 when needed (training provided)
2. Someone to sub for a 1st grade boy on Thursday at 9:30 when needed (training provided)
3. Volunteers to help with special events like Fun Day, Bowling and the Year End Celebration
4. Volunteers to help make food for our events

Finally, I just want to say what a blessing this job as Kids Hope Director is for me. I have spent my life working with children, planning their activities and creating programs. This job came along just after I "retired" but I could hear the calling to continue to use my gifts and experience for a new challenge. Praise the Lord!

Episode Three of "Inventing America"

Audience members can again experience both history and television in the making during the filming of Episode Three of "Inventing America: Conversations with the Founders" on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Hope College in the DeWitt Center main theatre.

The public is invited to the one-time performance. Admission is free, although advance tickets are recommended.

The episode, "Liberty for All: The Untold Story of the Bill of Rights," being filmed by WGVU Public Media, will feature a "live" interview and Q&A session with four of the nation's Founding Fathers who were centrally involved in the development of the

Bill of Rights: Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

"Inventing America" was created by Holland resident (and Hope Church member) Milton Nieuwsma, a two-time Emmy Award winner, to tell the story of the American republic and apply the Founders' ideas to the present time. The format is modeled after Steve Allen's classic "Meeting of Minds" series, which aired on PBS from 1977 to 1981.

The first two episodes were also filmed at Hope, in 2014 and 2016 respectively. They were subsequently distributed to PBS stations nationwide via the National Educational Telecommunications Association

(NETA).

PerryLandes (a Hope Church member), associate professor of theatre, is lighting and sound designer.

Tickets are available online as well as at the ticket office in the Events and Conferences Office located downtown in the Anderson-Werkman Financial Center (100 E. Eighth St.). The ticket office is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be called at (616) 395-7890.

For more information, visit: <https://hope.edu/news/2017/arts/founding-fathers-to-discuss-developing-the-bill-of-rights-on-dec-8-2017.html>

and finally

I am needed. I am heard. I belong. I make a difference. I know what I believe and I know why I believe it. People who are committed to their church family have these affirmations in common. Whether a congregant is 12 or 65, studies are showing that if a church member feels a sense of belonging and being understood, they will commit to a church family for many years to come. The question is what behavior needs to happen in churches for their congregants to assert this?

This is the very question Generation Spark aims to answer. Generation Spark is a research project being launched by the Hope College Center for Leadership and is funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment. Generation Spark is piloting a program beginning with 6 churches, giving them a research-based action plan to not only retain youth (ages 16-24) and older adults (ages 45 and up), but also attract and fully integrate them into the life and leadership of the church. The strategy will be implemented through one-to-one mentoring relationships, prayer partners, and identifying a project opportunity in the church that influences change in either the church or the greater community.



So, why am I telling you all of this? Well, Hope Church has mutually decided with the team at Generation Spark to participate in this program. A lot of discernment has gone into this since I first learned about the program in July. I met with the leadership team of Generation Spark several times along with Pastor Gordon, before discussing the opportunity with consistory. Then, we formed an exploratory committee made up of 4 older adults, 7 youth/young adults, and 2 pastors. After listening to a presentation from the Generation Spark team and spending time processing and discussing the program, the Hope Church exploratory team gave it an enthusiastic thumbs up. Both the exploratory team and consistory feel Generation Spark will be a great program to work in tandem with the initiatives we have set in my role as Pastor of Discipleship. We believe the program will help us capitalize on one of the greatest aspects of Hope Church, our diversity in age. We believe Generation Spark will challenge and assist us in becoming more integrated across generations and that this will be a gift for the future health of not only our church, but the greater church, as Generation Spark studies the outcomes of our work.

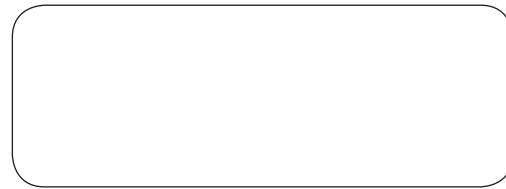
There is so much more I could share! You will be hearing much more in the weeks to come as we ready to launch the program in early March, but I wanted to bring the exciting news to you here first. I welcome any questions you have and if you already think this is something you want to be a part of, either as a part of the leadership team, or as a mentoring or prayer partner, I would love to hear that too. Stay tuned!

Peace,
~Pastor Beth



Hope Church News

December 2017



December, January & February 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):

December Greeters

03 Marianne Bomer
10 Judy Bos
17 Robert & Margaret Bos
24 Cal & Barb Bouma

January Greeters

07 Steve & Celaine Bouma-Prediger
14 Matthew Boyle
21 Al & Kristine Bradfield
28 Andrew & Carrie Bredow

February Greeters

04 Brad & Barbara Bright
11 Terry & Tracy Brower
18 Bill & Michelle Bryson
25 Julie Clough & Margaret Buckley

If you are unable to greet on your assigned service, 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 on the music room windows, 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.***

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Early Worship 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>Communion</i> <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 5 pm Craft Night 5:30 pm Advent Evensong Service 6 pm Soup Supper	4 5 pm Executive Committee 7 pm Community	5 11 am Commu- nications Taskforce	6 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	7 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Reconciliation 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	8	9 5:45 pm High Hopes Progressive Dinner
10 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10 am St. Nicholas Breakfast 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th and 7th Grade 4 pm Advent Organ Recital 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 6 pm Fish Club Christmas Party	11 11 am REST Support Group 5:30 pm Stewardship & Finance 7 pm Consistory	12 10:30 am Coffee at Freedom Village	13 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	14 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:35 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 1 pm Congregational Caroling	18	19	20 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	21 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 5 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Family Service & Pageant 10 pm Young Adult Open House 11 pm Candlelight Communion Service	25 Christmas Office Closed	26	27 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	28 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	29	30
31 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship 11:15 am Children in Worship						

ADVENT WISDOM:

Creating Strength and Beauty

Advent 2017

First Sunday of Advent

December 3

"From the fig tree learn its lesson..."
Mark 13.28

- 8:30 am Early Worship
9:40 am Adult Education
11:00 am Worship, Communion
4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Children - Crafts
Preschool* through 5th grade will make crafts for the Advent and Christmas season. *Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling.
- 5:30 pm **Advent Evensong Service**
Advent Evensong is a candlelight service of evening prayers incorporating song, prayer, testimony and scripture. We begin the season of Advent mindful of the longing in our hearts for God's shalom. How do we live in hope when life seems so far from God's vision of peace? We light a candle, we sit together, and we keep looking for Christ in the darkness.
- 6:00 pm **Supper & Lighting of Advent Candles**
A simple meal will be provided after the Advent crafts and activities.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10

"...and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything on it will be disclosed." 2 Peter 3.10

- 8:30 am Early Worship
10:00 am **St. Nicholas Breakfast**
This will be a time to remember the traditions of St. Nicholas and share breakfast in the Commons. There will be a special gift for each child and a gift to share with others!
- 11:00 am **Worship**
4:00 pm **Advent Organ Recital**
Rhonda Edgington's concert this year will include advent and Christmas themed solo organ works, congregational hymns, pieces for flute (played by flutist Julie Sooy) and organ, and a trio for soprano, flute, and organ by French composer Frank Martin. Childcare will be available.
- 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal

Bus Ministry:

Bus Ministry: On Dec. 3, there will be a second bus pick up at 5:10 pm at Freedom Village, and 5:15 pm at Warm Friend. On Dec. 10, there will be a second bus pick up at 3:35 pm at Freedom Village, and 3:40 pm at Warm Friend.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17

"...the earth brings forth its shoots..."
Isaiah 61.11

- 8:30 am Early Worship
9:40 am Adult Education
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Pizza Sunday
12:35 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
1:00 pm **Congregational Caroling**
Share the spirit of celebration and joy with those who find it difficult to join us. Poinsettias, gift bags, and cards will be shared as we carol. You don't have to have a great voice, just a smile to share. Families and persons of all ages are encouraged to participate - many voices are needed!



Christmas Eve

December 24

"...nothing will be impossible with God."

Luke 1:37

11:00 am **Worship**

11:15 am **Children in Worship**

5:00 pm **Jubilate Choir Rehearsal**

5:30 pm **Family Worship Service & Pageant**

Christmas carols will be sung and the Christmas story will be told as we worship the Christ child together. The pageant is a wonderful event for the whole community to celebrate the music and meaning of this season as the children act out the events of the Gospel story.

~ Children are welcome in the family service

10:00 pm **Young Adult Open House**

11:00 pm **Candlelight Communion**

Scripture lessons, carols, and music will fill our worship in a celebration of the birth of Christ. We greet Christmas morning sharing communion together, celebrating Jesus' birth.

No Early Worship, Church School,

Christmas Sunday

Sunday, December 31

11:00 am **Christmas Worship Service**

A worship service of carols, scripture, poetry, Christmas celebration & reflection.

11:15 am **Children in Worship - only Preschool & K-1 will meet**

No Early Worship, Church School, or Adult Education.

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 7

8:30 am **Early Worship**

9:40 am **Adult Education**

11:00 am **Epiphany Worship Service**

11:15 am **Combined Children in Worship**

12:15 pm **Epiphany Celebration**



Original Advent artwork by Kari Miller Fenwood

Opportunities to Give

Tree of Light

Become more involved in the lives of the community by selecting a tag off the tree in the Gathering Area beginning Dec. 3. This year, we are asking you to purchase \$25 gift cards to Meijer, Target, or Walmart, along with a Christmas card. Return gift cards with the Christmas card in an **unsealed** envelope to Hope Church by Dec. 17. For further details, please read the article on page 3 of the December newsletter.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering will support Hurricane Relief with RCA Churches in the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, please see the article on page 1-2 of the December newsletter.

White Gift Offering

On Epiphany Sunday, **Jan. 7**, bring a personal care product for a child or woman, wrapped in white tissue paper. These gifts will be brought forward during the offering, and later given to the Center for Women in Transition, a local agency assisting women and families caught in abusive relationships and empowering a hopeful future for them.