



# ***The Monthly Heartbeat***

**The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter**

Volume 23 SEPTEMBER 2016 Issue 9

**Embrace**

**Enfold**

**Encourage**

**Equip**

**Exalt**

## **Christ's Church is a Global Body!**

By Pastor Scott

Over the past few years, my understanding of the body of Christ has been growing. Is it fully developed? Not yet. But increasingly I am realizing that the Church of Christ is Global. It crosses cultures, spans countries, bridges languages. Sure I knew all these things before. I wasn't a parochial Christian, thinking that only the American Church is the Body of Christ. But my concern for the Chinese, Ethiopian, Dutch or Argentine Church wasn't there. I thought, those people are brothers and sisters, but what they believe, what is happening to them, what they are rejoicing or suffering is of little consequence to me.

Oh, how poor of an understanding. As Paul reminds us, when one part suffers every part suffers and when one part rejoices, every part rejoices. As I have been coming into more and more contact with the Global Church, I am seeing how rich and full God's salvation is. He loves people of every background, tribe, nation and language. And that means I have a responsibility to my brothers and sisters. I need to pray for them, ask God to sustain them, give of my resources to encourage and provide for them. It has been such a gift to pray for 3 men and their families the past few years. Though I know little about Pastor Fue, Pastor Enrique and Pastor Cholesh, other than the countries they minister in, what I do know is that persecution is ever on their doorstep and evangelism is on their hearts. And so I pray for their strength and their conviction. I ask God for courage and boldness and protection. I pray for the fruit of their labor and I look forward to meeting these men and their families in heaven one day. These prayer relationships, forged through Voice of the Martyrs, have also spurred me on to learn more about the persecuted Church. I read about the work of God in Afri-

ca and the Middle East. Currently I am reading about his work in 1940's China and I am astounded at how God was preserving a remnant in the midst of the Maoist crackdowns. I learn about stories of faith, stories of persecution and stories of perseverance and all of this pushes me on to stand firm in the faith and to be prepared to know what faithfulness looks like in a world increasingly hostile to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As part of our Church Vitality process, one of the markers we have agreed to pursue is becoming a church with a Global Perspective and Engagement. We have supported kids in India and Nepal. We have sent teams to work overseas. And this fall, we have the opportunity to hear from Farah Saada who has worked with her Palestinian father, in Jerusalem and the West bank bringing the love of Christ to Christians, Jews and Muslims. Farah will be speaking on September 18 during our service and during the Sunday school hour. This will be a primer to the conference we are hosting on November 5 for International Christian Response, which will include indigenous speakers from Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco as well of people working in the horn of Africa and parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. I encourage you to join me in growing in our understanding that Christ's Church is a Global Body!

## **Men's Thursday Evening Study Group to begin**

The Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study will resume on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. We will continue the study of "The Book of Jonah", and when that is finished we will begin the study of "Hebrews" by Max Lucado. A welcome is extended to any man who would like to join us! Lanny Speyer 739-5514

## Items of Interest from August's Council Meeting

By Mike Boer

Church Vitality Renewal – Signs are up on the doors – Everyone is encouraged to attend

Talking About God - Scott to plan first night in September

Sandwich Board Signs – Price quote was received from Special-T—Council approved the purchase of the signs

Building and Maintenance Report:

- Status on getting rid of 3 room portable - moving ahead with Providence Christian School in Ferndale.

Elders Report:

- Renovations of Admin Building? – Council decided to organize a committee to remodel the Admin Building. If anyone is interested in being on the committee they are asked to contact Mike Boer.
- Envision Ministry - Elder's would like to give Senti's a month off – possibly March

Report from the Deacons:

- The church has received a donation to be used to purchase an AED (defibrillator)
- Fall Budget Time Line presented

Oct. 1 Budget requests due to the Deacons

Oct. 26 Pre-Budget Meeting in the foyer

Nov. 20 Meeting to approve Budget

A request was received from a member to purchase the extra drum set that is currently upstairs. Council approved the sale.

## Celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, provides a day of rest for working Americans, showing their importance to the country's well-being. Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the Garden to "till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, NRSV). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out his mission. Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest one day each week (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath is a time for worship, family activities, renewal and recuperation. Labor Day is a reminder to be grateful for the creativity, ingenuity, minds and muscle power of countless workers — all gifts of God. That's worth setting aside a day to appreciate.

## Friendship Class Begins!

By Tanya Obbink

Excitement is in the air! Not only is our Friendship class gearing up to start again, but we are also starting a new class. This year we have much to look forward to!

The work of the Holy Spirit will continue to be the theme for our established class. We will study how the Holy Spirit helps Paul and how He makes God's church one. Special interest items that are planned for this year include: our annual Christmas program, a service project class, a special Easter class and the end-of-year pizza potluck.

Our new class will have a different format than what our Friendship class has been using. It is a new curriculum that Friendship Ministries is making available as of this year called "Together," and it is intended to be used in a 'typical' small group format. We are hoping to reach out to an increased number of people who are interested in a class that offers a little more depth than the typical Friendship class, without getting lost in the depth that often occurs in a typical small group. To quote the Friendship website, "Through the use of interactive videos, Bible presentations, discussion prompts, and more, people with and without disabilities can grow in faith TOGETHER." The plan is for this class to begin with a 6 part unit study entitled "Choose Courage", followed by an 8 part unit study entitled "Jesus: Face to Face". If you are interested in participating in the small group study, please let Herm or Tanya know! The cost is \$6 for the first unit and \$8 for the second...unless you want to sign-up as Herm's helper mentor: We pay for mentors! To learn more about this exciting new Small Group option, visit: <http://togethersmallgroups.org/what-is-together>. To see a sample lesson, visit: <http://together.friendship.org/>.

All of us involved in Friendship covet your prayers this year as we continue on in the Ministry God has given us, and as we begin to expand to reach more people! Also, if you have ideas for how the Friendship class could be a blessing to people or ministries (your ministry?) in our church, please talk to Tanya. Our service project class is being planned for Feb 13, right around Valentine's day.

Since we now have approximately 50 students/teachers we are in need of assistance in the way of snacks. We try to keep the snacks somewhat healthy and would love donations of fruit, crackers and cheese. Items could be brought to church the Sundays before the 2nd and 4th Mondays and left in the fridge; please put a note on them stating it is for Friendship.

Thank you for your continued support of Friendship! I look forward to sharing with you at the end of the year how God has been at work through this ministry.

## Seasons of Change

By David Richards, Council President

Over my career I have learned several things that are constant in Law Enforcement. One of the big ones is that COPS are very, very resistant to change. The past two years I have been responsible for implementing the Body Camera Program. In June I conducted several training sessions to push out the remaining 66 cameras, all of them to senior officers. Most were not excited and two swore they would retire before carrying and utilizing a Body Worn Camera. It made for some rough mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Running a close second to COPS are church members.

That had to get your attention!

We are in a season of change at Hope In Christ. What I mean is we are trying through the Vitality Program to see who we are and where we need to focus our energy. September 16th and 17th we have a great opportunity to listen and be led in a communications workshop by Tena Crosby, who has led similar workshops in corporate boards rooms and churches. Just like at BPD, I have been asked why are we doing this? Why spend the money? Do we really need this? To be honest I do not have the answer. What I do know is it will not hurt to learn to communicate better with each other, and if we can do this we will make our family stronger and better servants of Christ. Change.

Another change coming is that the Council has decided to move towards a family integrated service in response to our nursery being less and less utilized. This is not just a Hope In Christ experience. Many young couples have become hesitant to leave children with strangers when they are looking for a home church. The Council was asked to decide what to do about the nursery last spring. It was becoming harder to get nursery volunteers, and with less babies and toddlers to watch we were asked if we should continue to try to schedule nursery staff. Change.

That brought about a discussion about Children in Worship and should we consider a change here as well. We asked Diane, our ever-faithful CIW and Sunday School Coordinator and together we decided to move Children in Worship to Sunday School time. Change.

We will now have babies and toddlers in the Worship Center during the service. That most likely will mean some extra sounds we are not accustomed to but they are joyful sounds when you think about it. What is more joyful than the sounds made by Christ's children? Don't forget the promise we each make every time we baptize a baby, we promise to help raise each child in Christian love and training, GOD helping us. Change.

Topping all this off is a new web presence, Facebook page and, coming soon, new signs helping visitors see where our Worship Center entrance is; which we pray will be welcoming to visitors.

Back to BPD and the Body Camera experience. While getting the most senior and most hesitant coppers to the training was painful, we are seeing the cameras being embraced by this same group (well, almost all of them) as they see the change was first of all inevitable and there was and is a big upside to carrying and using one, and no one retired to avoid the camera. I pray that we see as much acceptance to the changes we will be experiencing. After all, we will have God's help through the Holy Spirit.

In His service and walking with Him

David



**The Harvest is ready. Here are some fields. Now is the call for laborers to the harvest!**

Serving others is a humble key that opens a huge door to experiencing Jesus Christ in my life. Looking for a way to serve others this fall? Learn how you can serve with one of Love INC's gap ministries.

**STARTING SOON!! Free 12-Week Budget Coaching; Fall Session Begins September 8th!**

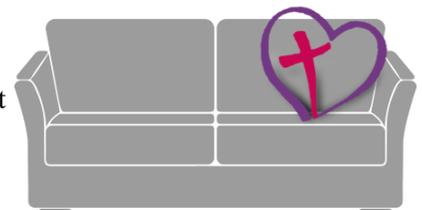
\*Call Love INC to register & attend this free course ~ 671-6201

\*Interested in Volunteering as a Coach Assistant?

Give us a call! Visit our website to learn more...

Re-Opening this Fall ~ Date TBD  
Looking for Volunteers!!

Want a great way to serve this fall? Come join a moving team that brings furniture into homes of needy families! To sign up for a Saturday or Tuesday moving team, email:



**Furnished with Love**

[Shanon@whatcomloveinc.org](mailto:Shanon@whatcomloveinc.org)

# ONE IN 32 WHATCOM COUNTY SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE HOMELESS

FOR ALL OR PART OF THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR



LEARN HOW YOU AND YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY CAN HELP THEM:

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15 AT 7 P.M.

Join representatives from **INTERFAITH COALITION OF WHATCOM COUNTY** and **FAMILY PROMISE** to discuss how we can use our faith communities' resources and work together to serve the growing number of homeless children and parents in our community.



**INTERFAITH COALITION**  
Partners in faith, Changing lives

For over 35 years, the member congregations of Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County have been working together to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County.

[www.interfaith-coalition.org](http://www.interfaith-coalition.org)



**FAMILY PROMISE**

Helps faith groups in over 200 communities nationwide use their buildings and resources to provide temporary shelter, meals, and companionship to homeless families.

[www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org)

# Deacon's Digest

By Terry Vander Woude

**It is budget time again!** All team leaders and those who will be needing funding consideration for the upcoming year need to submit their budget request to the Deacons **prior to October 1**. Send your budget request by email to Dan Obbink. Pre-budget hearing will be held on October 26 at 7pm in the church lobby. The congregation will be asked to approve the budget on November 20.

The Deacons would also like to encourage everyone to consider sending their giving checks through their bank. Simply add Hope in Christ Church to your monthly bills when you do on-line banking and your bank will send your check directly to the church. office.

## Giving in July 2016

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 1,174	\$ 12,239
General Fund Offerings	\$ 14,104	\$121,339
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>450</u>	<u>18,742</u>
Total Undesignated Income	14,554	140,081
General Fund Expenses	<u>(14,335)</u>	<u>(132,316)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 219</u>	<u>\$ 7,765</u>
Total 2016 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 7 months		\$ 134,439
Total Undesignated Income		<u>140,081</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 5,642</u>

### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 22,500

## Women's Tuesday Evening Study Group to begin

Ladies! Would you be interested in joining a group of ladies participating in a study group on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings? We meet at 7pm and usually are finished by 8:30. Terry Vander Woude is currently organizing the group and has a sample book for your review called "The Kingdom Equation" by John Timmer. This is a nine week course studying a fresh look at the parables of Jesus. We probably will begin on September 27th. Please let Terry know if you will be joining the group.

## Congregational Birthdays For September

3 Lorraine Brouwer  
 5 Lee Veenstra  
 6 Kyle Sentkowski  
 6 Chantel Obbink  
 11 Jan Scholten  
 11 Barbara Zylstra  
 15 Troy Jones  
 16 Abigail Cunningham  
 16 Rochelle Senti  
 19 Isaac Speyer  
 24 Ellie Roberts  
 25 Jennifer Boer  
 28 Aaron Speyer  
 30 Jonathan Senti



If you are fairly new to the church, please let the office know your birth date so we can add you to the list.

## Vitality Workshop Scheduled

By Scott Emory

A reminder regarding the Vitality Pathway: In September, we're conducting a communications workshop used successfully by various types of organizations to teach us how our communication styles are perceived by others and what we can do to communicate effectively when dealing with people of other styles.

The workshop will be 7:00-9:00 on Friday evening, Sept 16th, and 9:00-5:00 on Saturday, Sept 17th. And it will not work for us to attend only a part of the workshop—in fact doing that could actually have a negative impact—so it's crucial that we plan on attending both Friday evening and Saturday. Child care will be provided for the whole workshop as will lunch on Saturday. And we'll have a salad potluck before the workshop on Friday evening.

This will be worth it, folks. The consideration we learn to give one another here in this workshop is part of the loving one another we're repeatedly instructed to do in the Bible. Please place in the box in the back of the sanctuary the sign-up slips found in the bulletin and on the information stand in the foyer so we'll know how much food to provide.

Prayer Warrior Partners:

I've been fascinated by the Leonard Cohen song, Hallelujah, since I first heard it on 'Shrek.' I can listen to it repeatedly, though by the fifth or sixth time I'll have seen Melissa roll her eyes at least once. I love its tense, minor tones, its mysterious lyrics, how the words themselves describe the music that accompanies them, and the general somber spirit of a lost love. However, it's certainly not a song with a Christ-centered worldview, and its lyrics don't carry much hope. Of the song, Cohen says: 'This world is full of conflicts and full of things that cannot be reconciled. But there are moments when we can ... reconcile and embrace the whole mess, and that's what I mean by 'Hallelujah.'" It's not a biblical definition of the word, as it completely ignores the True Reconciler.

The children of our church are exposed to many messages that the world sends. Many of those, like Cohen's song, offer little hope and even less meaning. We, however, as God's covenant people, are given the clear call in Psalm 78 to 'not hide [wise teaching] from [our] children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.' The council's hope is that the Prayer Partnership between our children and their prayer partners helps in some small way to facilitate this passing of wisdom and a Christ-centered worldview to the next generation. We want our children to be discerning in their interaction with the world - that though they may appreciate the musical/artistic genius of a song like Hallelujah, they would feel sadness at the emptiness the message of the song carries. Our children need to grow in discernment. And our children's hope must be found in nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.

Our prayers, like that of Paul in Colossians 1, should be that the Holy Spirit will continue to work, in part through "the wisdom of age" interacting with "the exuberance of youth". There is power in the time spent on our knees pleading before the Throne of Grace, that the children of this congregation would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of pleasing the Lord. This is a powerful recipe for cultivating Covenant children.

Help guide our children as your conversations and interactions allow. Pray continually that your prayer partner would see the world not as the hopeless and despair-filled that Cohen's lyrics suggest, but instead that they would know deeply the infinitely valuable Truth that they are co-heirs with Christ to a city paved with gold. Pray that their treasure of infinite worth is Jesus.

From time to time our life's responsibilities and abilities change. If you are unable to continue in your partnership, I understand; please let me know via email. If your partnership just hasn't hit it off, and you would like a change, again I'll be happy to adjust the list appropriately. And if things are going great and you want to keep on, I thank God. I would love to hear that too.

Finally, below are a few specific suggestions as to how you can pray for your younger prayer partners. Parents, this can be a useful guide to have the children pray for their partners as well:

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would love your Word. (Ps 119)

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will grow every day in wisdom and in stature, and in favor of man. (Luke 2:52)

Give \_\_\_\_\_ understanding when he/she has questions about cruelty and injustice. You are a wise Father and give instruction as it is needed. (Ecc 8:9)

I pray that Your Spirit will live abundantly in \_\_\_\_\_. Make this child part of Your kingdom - not through rules but through righteousness, peace and joy in Your Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17 and Jn 6:63)

May \_\_\_\_\_ know your Name and have confidence in who you are. You are a friend of children (Mt 10:13-14 and Jn 15:15), Redeemer (Rom 6:23), Wonderful Counselor (Is 42:16-17 and James 1:5), Provider (Ps 34:10), and Healer (Ex 15:26 and Jer 17:14)

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_'s life would join with the great heavenly multitude in an exuberant shout of 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.' (Rev 19:1)

Again, please let me know if you have any questions or requests about this Prayer Warrior Partnership.

Brian Koning [twokonings@yahoo.com](mailto:twokonings@yahoo.com)

## Preaching Series:

- 9/4 Eph. 5:22-33 The Godly Marriage  
9/11 Eph. 6:1-3 Love in the Family  
9/18 You Will Be A Blessing  
9/25 Eph. 6:4 Love From Parents

## Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

- 9/4 Karen Smith and Chris Pike  
9/11 Mike and Jenn Boer  
9/18 Ruth Stadt and Joe Pruitt  
9/25 Jay and Avis Kaemingk

## Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 9/4 Jan Scholten, Joanne Schultz  
9/11 Jolene Skovron, Karen Smith  
9/18 Elaine Snapper, Megan Speyer  
9/25 Christine Speyer, Ruth Stadt

## Serving Assistants Schedule

- 9/4 Zeke, Mairi, Amber, Faith  
9/11 Caleb, Chantel, Michal, Maggie  
9/18 Grace, Mattea, Abee, Michal  
9/25 Faith, Mairi, Maggie, Zeke

## Prayer Room

- 9/4 Connie Knutson  
9/11 Jay Kaemingk  
9/18 Len Vander Woude  
9/25 Terry Vander Woude

## Offering Schedule

- 9/4 General Fund  
9/11 General Fund  
9/18 Outreach Fund  
9/25 General Fund

## Ushering Schedule

- 9/4 Len Vander Woude, and Ken Wick  
9/11 Joe Pruitt and Deloris Perry  
9/18 Bud Brouwer and Helen Bowman  
9/25 Lou Kooistra, Don Knutson

## Children & Worship Schedule

- 9/4 NONE  
9/11 Jen Roberts  
9/18 Bekah Roberts and Ali Laninga  
9/25 Diane Button and Amber Obbink

## Sunday School Schedule

- 9/4 NONE  
9/11 Jenn Boer and Darlys Recker  
9/18 Jenn Boer and Darlys Recker  
9/25 Jenn Boer and Darlys Recker (sub needed)

**Volunteers are needed in every role. Contact the church office if you wish to be added to this list of volunteers.**

**Background checks are now being run for the school year. Forms are available on the information stand in the foyer and from the church office and need to be submitted to the church office. Every volunteer who works with the children and/or Friendship program is required to submit to a background check.**

# September 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 9:30 Service  6pm TAG	5	6 7pm Building and Maintenance Team	7 9:45 Women's Study Grp 10 Men's Social Grp. 7pm Elders & Deacons Meet	8 6:30am Men's Study Grp  7pm Praise Tm	9	10
11 9:30 Service 11 Sunday Schl  4:30 Pastor Scott's Grp 7pm Herm Laningas' Group	12 7pm Friendship	13	14 9:45 Women's Study Grp 10 Men's Social Grp. 7pm Council Mtg.	15 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Grp 7pm Praise Tm	16 <b>6-9:30pm Vitality Workshop</b>	17 <b>9-5 Vitality Workshop</b>
18 9:30 Service  11 Sunday Schl and prayer time together	19 6:30pm GEMS	20	21 9:45 Women's Study Grp 10 Men's Social Grp. <b>7pm Team Leaders Mtg.</b>	22 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Grp 7pm Praise Tm	23	24 9-noon sound board training
25 9:30 Service 11 Sunday Schl 4:30 Pastor Scott's Grp 7pm Herm Laningas' Group	26 7pm Friendship	27 7pm Women's study group	28 9:45 Women's Study Grp 10 Men's Social Grp.	29 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Grp 7pm Praise Tm	30	