



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

Volume 22 2015 Issue

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

What Can We Become?

By Pastor Scott

Every child asks the question, “Can I be...” It is a part of growing up. As our young ones search out the parameters of what is open to them they ask, “Can I be an engineer?” “Can I be a teacher?” “Can I be a mom?” “Can I be a dancer?” And thousands of other “Can I be” questions come from their lips. This is a part of healthy growing, dreaming and questioning of our destiny. But just as soon as the “Can I be” questions stop, a different form of oratory appears on their lips. The “I am going to be...” These declarative statements signal the transition from merely dreaming about the future to embracing a particular vision for the future.

Just like children growing and dreaming about the future, our congregation is in the process of dreaming. Can we be a church of intentional evangelism? Can we be a church that transforms our community through compassion, mercy and justice? Can we be a church with a global perspective? Can we be a church of sacrificial and generous living and giving? In short, can we be a healthy, missional Church? The answer to all of these questions is an emphatic, “Yes!”

We can become all of these things and more. As we have been exploring the ten markers of a healthy, missional church, some, like little children have probably asked with a quizzical look and a hint of disbelief – Can we really be all of that? As I have already said, but will say again, in the words of that famed children’s cartoon character, Bob the Builder, “Yes, we can.”

We can become a healthy, missional church because our strength and our power to change come not from ourselves but from the Lord of Creation. He has the resources. He has the power. He has the wit. And He has the patience to lead us from one degree of glory into an-

other. He can help us to grow, to change, to dream and to embrace the vision that he has for his people.

Over the coming months, we will be hosting discussion groups on a variety of topics in order to continue to cast the vision and establish the framework for the Church that God intends us to be. This doesn’t mean that we haven’t been a good church in the past, rather it means that in all areas of life, there is still more dreaming and growing to embrace, and we desire to seek every ounce of health for our congregation.

But not everyone is in the dreaming stage. Some may have already caught the vision and have moved on to the declarative statement that “We are going to be a healthy, missional church.” If you find yourself in this camp, don’t fret or become impatient. Rather, continue to embrace the future: Pray into it. Say it with confidence. Work towards becoming all that God wants you to be, so that this church can become all that God wants us to be.

Whether we are dreaming or declaring, the future of what we will become really depends upon each one of us taking steps to grow in our walk with the Lord, to listen to his word, to be transformed as individuals and to Worship with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We must become the kind of people that we want our church to become. When we do this, giving up on comfort and ease and welcoming the transforming power of the spirit into our midst, the growth will be explosive. The more we are changed and engage in the marks of a healthy church individually, the more our congregation will experience the renewing work of the Spirit.

Continued on Page Three

Items of Interest from February's Council Meeting

By Brian Koning

Reports:

Building & Grounds Maintenance Committee Report - Lou reported that the rental house is now occupied by a couple on staff at the LOWPC.

Old Business:

- a) Church Vitality Renewal - Status Report from Steering Committee
 - First Church Family Gathering -
 - The Vitality team will convene to further plan the future events & activities
- b) Talking About God worship; Thoughts and Comments! Next worship - March 6th at 6pm
 - Brian to facilitate on: 'Children and communion'
- c) Church Web presence - New look and Facebook Page - check us out!
- d) Jesus Gathering in January .
 - Mitch says, "Thank You, Hope In Christ Church for your support in January"
- f) World Renew Mission project Eastern Washington, June 12-18, 2016
 - Terry & Faye are graciously heading this up.
 - Sign up forms sent out in last Sunday Bulletin.
 - The leaders will get together and start working on logistics
- g) Mutual Accountability and Encouragement was held

New Business

- a) Elder and Deacon Nominations are being considered. Nominations to be decided upon at the March Council Meeting, folks to be asked later that month.
- b) Classis Meeting - Delegates will be Scott Roberts, Michael Boer, and a deacon to be named later. Thursday March 3rd in Mt Vernon at First CRC

Open Floor:

- a) The adoptions of Ruiters and Konings were prayed for.

Coming Events:

- Prayer Meeting - 2/21 during Sunday School time - Other times?
- Deacons and Elders Meeting Wednesday 3/2 at 7:00PM
- Communion Sunday 3/6 with TAG worship at 6:00 PM
- Council Meeting - Wednesday 3/9 at 7:00 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED BY WHATCOM HOSPICE

Hospice seeks top-quality, caring volunteers to provide assistance to those facing a life-threatening illness. Care-giver volunteers provide respite sitting, light chores, transportation, comfort, and friendship. Indirect-Care volunteers may prefer to volunteer in other capacities that do not provide direct patient care, like deliveries, yard work, office help, knitting, sewing or singing.

Interested adults are invited to attend an informational meeting:

Saturday, March 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hospice Administration Building, Lower Level Conference Room, 2800 Douglas Ave., Bellingham

The two training programs will be explained at that time. Or you can call the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 360-788-6892 or email dgillespie@peacehealth.org for more information.

Hope is on the Way! Tickets for Interfaith Coalition Hope Auction on Sale Now

This year's Interfaith Hope Auction promises to be another sell-out, so be sure to get your tickets now! This friendly evening of fellowship, lively auction fun and inspiration starts at 5:30 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton (formerly Best Western Lakeway Inn, 715 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham). Your \$50 ticket includes dinner and hundreds of interesting, unique and intriguing auction items to bid on --- all to help us provide homes for families in need, shelter for those who live outside, meals for hungry people and hope that fuels transforming lives.

We are also seeking wonderful, creative and enticing auction donations. These can be experiences that include travel, spas, gourmet meals, sports tickets and pet pampering, homemade quilts and jewelry, garden inspiration, and more. If you have a service to offer, an item you'd like to donate, an experience you can share, all to help Interfaith programs, please contact Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983 or through the website: www.interfaith-coalition.org

Partner with us by attending Interfaith Hope Auction and lifting up our brothers and sisters!

Deacon's Digest

By Ali Laninga

Spring is just around the corner! Have you seen the crocuses blooming around the church grounds? It's my favorite time of the year as the days get longer and new life pops up everywhere in God's amazing creation.

Along with spring, comes the annual **Spring Hymn Sing!** Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 17, 6:30-8:30. The Hymn Sing will be followed with a time of fellowship over pie and ice cream. Think about who you might invite to come along to enjoy this wonderful evening of worship and fellowship.

The Deacons would like to do a better job communicating to the congregation how we are doing financially. We will be giving a verbal report once a quarter during a morning worship service. If you ever have any questions regarding the financial health of the church, please feel free to ask one of the Deacons.

Giving in January 2016

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 2,497	\$ 4,720
General Fund Offerings	\$ 16,114	\$ 37,068
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>1,693</u>	<u>2,959</u>
Total Undesignated Income	17,807	40,027
General Fund Expenses	<u>(21,856)</u>	<u>(35,886)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (4,049)</u>	<u>\$ 4,141</u>
Total 2016 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 2 months		\$ 33,610
Total Undesignated Income		<u>40,027</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 6,417</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 22,500

What Can We Become?...cont. from Page One

Some may charge me with pandering some kind of power of positive thinking gimmick. Far from it. I do not believe for one minute that our thoughts alone can transform and mature any person, much less any church. In truth, only the Holy Spirit can mature, grow and cause fruit to be born. What I am saying is that until we catch a glimpse of the dream, we won't even be able to ask the Spirit to work and only after we have embraced the future and abandoned the past will we be able to cooperate with the Spirit in his work of transformation.

What can we become? We can and will become a healthy, missional Church by the power of God at work in us!

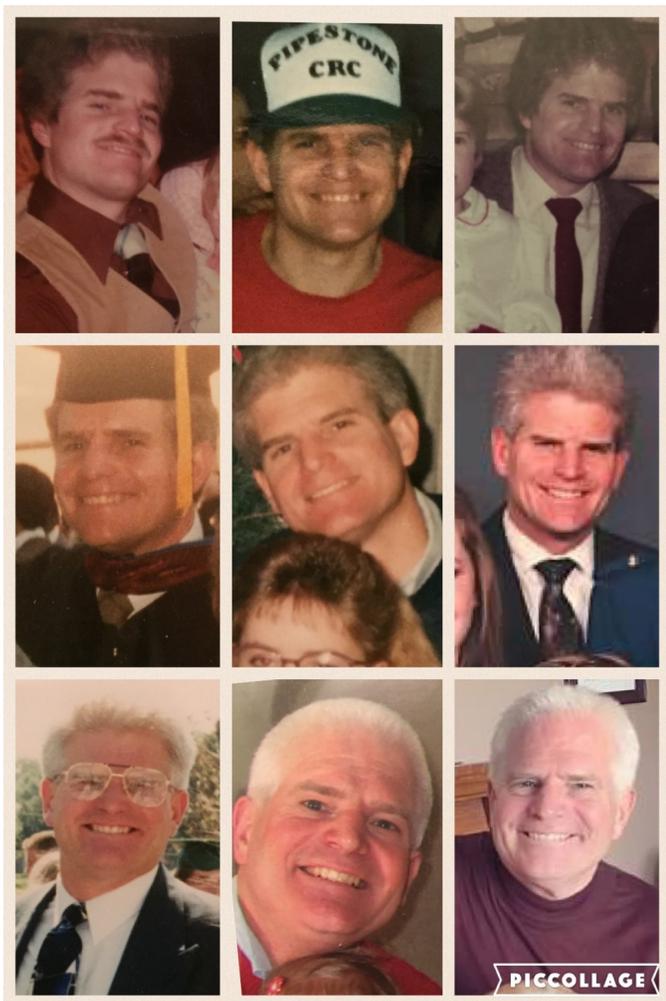
Vitality Team Family Gatherings

The Vitality team is proposing the following schedule and list of topics to discuss at four family gatherings during 2016 as part of our movement towards becoming a healthy, missional Church. The elders will be considering these dates and topics at their next meeting but we wanted you to think, pray and give input to your elders over the next few days.

- Sat, April 2, 2016 from 9 am to 12 pm
Workgroups on establishing a Behavioral Covenant
- Sunday, May 1, 2016 Post service Congregational Meeting
Vote for Council slate
Review proposed Behavioral Covenant after the workgroup meeting.
- Sun, May 15, 2016 from 6-8 pm with a possible potluck at 5 pm
History & Legacy workshop to review our church history by the decade and discern positive and negative patterns
- Sun, Sept 18, 2016 from 6-8 pm with a possible potluck at 5 pm
Conversation about healthy communication, transparency in decision-making
- Sun, October 30, 2016 during potluck after service (11:30 am – 2 pm)
Conversation about Discipleship and the things that encourage and discourage our walk with Christ.
Council to report on "Our Biblical Story"
- January 2017 Epic Workshop and next phase of strategic layout for Vitality process.

This timeline is well within the normal schedule of event proposed by the Vitality pathway and we believe it will keep our conversations moving, help us to establish a new culture of communication and discussion about relevant topics and set the framework for more of the strategic discussions we need to have in 2017.

The Vitality Team – Pastor Scott, Scott Emory, Herm Laninga and Faye Hop



They can be sent any time, mail to: Jim Petersen, 500 South Grape Street, Morrison, IL 61270. You may also send an electronic version to jaimerockcrossroads@gmail.com. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who you think might be interested as well.

Sincerely,

Heidi De Jonge, Tracy Keizer & Derek Petersen



JOIN HOPE IN CHRIST CHURCH AS WE RESPOND TO THE FIRE DISASTER IN OKANAGAN COUNTY

JUNE 11—18 2016

WASHINGTON – Okanogan County DISASTER: *Wildfires-Major Disaster Declaration declared on August, 2014 Impacted the Cities of: Pateros, Carlton, Brewster, Twisp.*

WORK: Working with Carlton Complex Fire Recover LTRO. The greatest need right now is for fences to be rebuilt so livestock can be managed (860 MILES of fencing) and also a lot of ash/trash/metal debris removal. In June 2016 they will start reconstruction.

ACCOMMODATIONS/MEALS: There are 5-6 churches that are available to provide accommodations. The volunteer coordinator will assign work projects and housing per group depending on groups' ages and size, as well as skill-level.

AGE REQUIREMENT: Generally high school and up are welcome; youth under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

More information will be provided once we know who will be participating so World Renew can begin making the arrangements for our group.

Coordinators: Jerry and Faye Hop; Len and Terry Vander Woude

Dear Congregation,

After almost 40 years of faithful service, our dad, Dr. Jim Petersen, is retiring from active pastoral ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. He began ordained ministry on September 21, 1976, and will conclude his service at his current church, Morrison CRC in Morrison, IL on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016. He has served churches in Bunde, MN (1976-1980), Pipestone, MN (1980-1985), Trinity CRC in Jenison, MI (1985-1990), Bellingham CRC (now Hope in Christ) in Bellingham, WA (1990-1995), Faith CRC in New Brighton, MN (1995-2005), Crossroads CRC in West Des Moines, IA (2005-2014) and Morrison CRC (2014-2016).

We know that God has used him to affect many lives over the past 4 decades of ministry. In recognition of all the people that his life and ministry have touched, we are encouraging a shower of cards, letters and remembrances for him as he turns toward this new phase in life and ministry. We invite you to send a card, memory, or a note of appreciation/encouragement as a way to bless our dad and mom and remind them how God has used them in His service.

Preaching Series:

- 3/6 A Culture of Godly leadership—Mt. 5:3-12
3/13 Fruitful Organizational Structures—Num. 2
3/20 Palm Sunday—Luke 19:28-44
3/27 Easter Service—Mt. 28:1-10

Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

- 3/6 Jerry and Faye Hop
3/13 Bud and Lorraine Brouwer
3/20 Lisa Oppenhuizen and Helen Bowman
3/27 Lanny and Christine Speyer

Nursery Schedule

- 3/6 Avis Kaemingk, Esther VandenBos
3/13 Lorraine Brouwer, Ida Richards
3/20 Barb Zylstra, Jolene Skovron
3/27 Denise Doezema, Terry Vander Woude

Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 3/6 Lisa DeSalvo, Denise Doezema
3/13 Faye Hop, Avis Kaemingk
3/20 Connie Knutson, Melissa Koning
3/27 Evelyn Kooistra, Ali Laninga

Prayer Room

- 3/6 Len Vander Woude
3/13 Jen Roberts
3/20 Lee Veenstra
3/27 Arlene Veenstra

Offering Schedule

- 3/6 General Fund
3/13 General Fund
3/20 Outreach Fund
3/27 General Fund

Ushering Schedule

- 3/6 Don Knutson and Helen Bowman
3/13 Len Vander Woude and Lou Kooistra
3/20 Dale and Deloris Perry
3/27 Bud Brouwer and Joe Pruitt

Children & Worship Schedule

- 3/6 Diane Button and Kylie Thramer
3/13 Ida Richards and Amber Obbink
3/20 Bekah Roberts and Evelyn Kooistra
3/27 Rosa McAlister and Megan Speyer

Sunday School Schedule

- 3/6 Jolene Skovron, Pastor Scott, Tena Vanderpol
3/13 Jolene Skovron, Pastor Scott, Tena Vanderpol
3/20 Jolene Skovron, Pastor Scott, Tena Vanderpol
3/27 Easter—No Sunday school

Congregational Birthdays For March

- 02 John Koning
10 Ruth Stadt
16 Connie Knutson
19 Caleb Roberts
19 Ken Anderson
22 Esther Vanden Bos
25 Miriam Speyer
26 Tyrone Abitia (McAlister)
26 Terry VanderWoude
28 Dale Perry
29 Alice Skovron



March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp 7pm Elders and Deacons Mt	3 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	4	5
6 9:30 Service 11am Sunday School 6pm TAG	7 6:30pm GEMS	8 7pm Women's Study Grp 7pm Boer's Study group	9 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp 7pm Council	10 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	11	12
13 9:30 Service 11am Sunday School 4:30 Scott's Grp 7pm Laninga Grp	14 7pm Friendship	15	16 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp	17 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	18	19
20 9:30 Service 11am Sunday School 6:45pm Kings Men of Song	21 6:30pm GEMS	22 7pm Women's Study Grp 7pm Boer's Study group	23 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp	24 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	25 7pm Good Friday Service 	26
27 EASTER 9:30 Service 	28 7pm Friendship	29	30 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp	31 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp		

"Take Up Your Cross"

...take up his cross daily and follow me.

[Luke 9:23](#)

...take up his cross daily and follow me. You do not make your own cross, although unbeliever is a master carpenter at cross-making; neither are you permitted to choose your own cross, although self-will wants to be lord and master. But your cross is prepared and appointed for you by divine love, and you must cheerfully accept it; you are to take up the cross as your chosen badge and burden, and not to stand complaining.

This night Jesus bids you submit your shoulder to His easy yoke. Do not kick at it in petulance, or trample on it in pride, or fall under it in despair, or run away from it in fear, but take it up like a true follower of Jesus.

Jesus was a cross-bearer; He leads the way in the path of sorrow. Surely you could not desire a better guide! And if He carried a cross, what nobler burden would you desire? The Via Crucis is the way of safety; fear not to tread its thorny paths. Beloved, the cross is not made of feathers or lined with velvet; it is heavy and galling to disobedient shoulders; but it is not an iron cross, though your fears have painted it with iron colors; it is a wooden cross, and a man can carry it, for the Man of Sorrows tried the load.

Take up your cross, and by the power of the Spirit of God you will soon be so in love with it that like Moses you would not exchange the reproach of Christ for all the treasures of Egypt. Remember that Jesus carried it; remember that it will soon be followed by the crown, and the thought of the coming weight of glory will greatly lighten the present heaviness of trouble.

May the Lord help you bow your spirit in submission to the divine will before you fall asleep tonight, so that waking with tomorrow's sun, you may go forth to the day's cross with the holy and submissive spirit that is fitting for a follower of the Crucified.

FAMILY BIBLE READING PLAN

[Job 23](#)

[1 Corinthians 10](#)

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NCFCA Regional Speech & Debate Tournament

National Christian Forensics and Communication Association



Our tournaments are powered by Judges Like You

Your unique skills and life experience qualify you to judge. We ask for about 3 hours per round, including a one-time judge orientation. Your feedback is invaluable to the students. We appreciate the gift of your time. We need your help in Lynden on April 7-9.

How to sign up:

- Go to www.ncfcajudges.org; choose Region II, then Northwest Washington Qualifier
- Click “Sign up” to see the schedule of times and events. The times listed are the ARRIVAL time for judges; rounds begin 45 minutes later, on the hour.
- Under “Comments” please name the person or family who recruited you to judge.
- Select events/days/hours you want to judge. Click “Complete Registration” and you’re done! Your ARRIVAL TIME is on the registration page. Thank you!