



# *The Monthly Heartbeat*

**The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter**

Volume 23 April 2016 Issue 4

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

## **Behavioral Covenants – What are they and why do we need them?**

By Pastor Scott

Have you ever been in a room where you disagreed with pretty much everything that was being said, but you stayed quiet and never spoke up? Have you ever been in a meeting where it appeared everyone was in agreement, but at lunch you overhear people disagreeing with the decisions that were made, decisions that they never spoke against when given an opportunity?

Unfortunately, these scenarios are all too common in work places, volunteer organizations and yes, even in churches. We would like to think that people would speak their mind and express their opinions and concerns at the appropriate times and then support the decisions thereafter, but we live in a fallen world. We are all sinners and we frequently participate in or overhear these kinds of interactions. That is where behavioral covenants come in.

A behavioral covenant is an agreed upon manner of interacting when we have disagreements. The truth is that none of us needs a reminder when things are going well. For then, we have nothing which might breed disagreement or conflict, but when we differ in opinion and those differences are big or deeply held, then we are prone to forget love, civility and even good manners. A behavioral covenant helps to remind ourselves and others, that we have made an agreement to love, honor and support one another, even if a disagreement arises. It isn't a tool to beat people up with, but a tool to look at each time before we begin a conversation in order to keep Christian love in the forefront of our minds as we talk. It is a tool to encourage all of us to consider what, how and when we

speak. For our desire is that the unity of the body of Christ is built up and not torn down.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> started our process of crafting a behavioral covenant. The 3-hour session began with a short Power-Point presentation by Scott Emory about behavioral covenants. It was followed by work in table groups where structured discussions over 6-8 questions occurred. These were questions like, "When someone disagrees with you, how would you like them to tell you?" "What positive behaviors do we want to encourage in our congregation?" "What are the attitudes we want to embody in our conversations with each other about vitality, renewal and other church matters?" "How should I respond when I disagree with someone or some decision?" "What is my responsibility when I encounter unhealthy communication from others?" (Groups were asked to keep good notes of their discussions.) After this time, each table group reported on one of the questions they discussed so the entire gathering was able to hear from another table's conversation.

The Vitality team has collected the notes from each table and will be working to craft a behavioral covenant which will be presented at the Congregational meeting on May 1. This document will become a living part of our church life. It is our hope to read it at each of our congregational meetings and vitality discussions as well as incorporating it into new member classes. So please be in prayer over the coming month as the Vitality team seeks to serve the church and help her grow into a healthy, mission Church.

# Items of Interest from March's Council Meeting

By Brian Koning

## Reports:

- A. Pastor Scott reported on a recent building permit issued to the folks in Ethiopia.
- B. The Vitality Teams recommendations on the upcoming events were approved. They are: Sat. April 2 from 9-noon, Sunday May 15 from 6-8pm. More events will be done in the Fall.
- C. Christine reported from the deacons that finances for Feb. were \$3,600 in the hole, although year to date was \$500 in the black.
- D. Roughly \$1900 has been set aside for the upcoming summer mission trip.
- E. The deacons plan to have Dan Obbink report on the financial status of the church in April at a special congregational meeting.
- F. Lou reported that most of the annual budget has been used in recent repairs, and there are more upcoming repairs to do.
- G. Building and Maintenance has scheduled the annual grounds clean-up for April 9 from 9-noon. The team will have bark delivered that will need to be spread. Breakfast will be offered from 8:30-9:15.
- H. Lou reported the downstairs shower of the Ministry House needs repair, with a cost of around \$1000.

## Old Business:

- A. The next Talking About God will be lead by Brian Koning and will continue about communion.
- B. Megan Speyer has agreed to help with the church's Facebook page. Mike gave an update on highlighting, listing other ministries on our website.
- C. An update was given on the mission trip—we have approx. 23 adults committed to going.
- D. Classis Meeting Report: The synodical same-sex marriage counseling recommendation was rejected by Classis, which has apparently happened with many other Classis as well.
- E. Elder and Deacon nominations were discussed and finalized.

## New Business:

- A. Mike Button was given permission to use the church one evening in April to give a class on kite making.

## Upcoming Events:

Deacons and Elders meet April 6

Communion Sunday April 2, as well as Good Friday and Easter

TAG worship is April 3 at 6:00; Brian to lead

Council Meets April 13 at 7pm

Prayer Meeting is April 17 during Sunday school time

Prayer time every Sunday at 8:15 upstairs, all welcome

## The 10-foot rule

Some churches follow the 10-foot rule: When anyone is within 10 feet of another person on church grounds, he or she offers a warm welcome and cheerful greeting.

This rule originated with Wal-Mart founder SamWalton, who encouraged store employees to look customers in the eye, greet them and ask if they needed help.

As an ambitious college student in Missouri, Walton discovered that “one of the secrets to campus leadership was the simplest thing of all: Speak to people coming down the sidewalk before they speak to you.”

Walton used the person's name if he knew it. “But even if I didn't, I would still speak to them,” he said. “Before long, I probably knew more students than anybody in the university, and they recognized me and considered me their friend.”

No sincere welcome is unimportant, even if necessity requires brevity.

## Ladies Afternoon Tea Sponsored By Love, INC.

It is our honor to invite the ladies of your church to a Ladies Afternoon Tea Presented by Love In the Name of Christ. The event is being held on Saturday, April 30, from 2-4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Bellingham. Drawing from John 17:23, the theme of this year's program is “Perfectly One of Heart and Mind.” Please join us for the afternoon! Besides tea and coffee, there will be music, raffle door prizes, and delightful sweets and a speaker. Come be inspired as you hear from Dr. Jason Hubbard on How God is Moving in Whatcom County. This popular annual event has limited seating! Register online at [www.whatcomloveinc.org](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org), email [Shannon@whatcomloveinc.org](mailto:Shannon@whatcomloveinc.org), or call the office at 671-6201. Cost at the door is \$20 and is given for the support of Love INC ministries.

## Epitaph

Here lies the body of Solomon Peas  
Under the sod and under the trees.  
Peas is not here, 'tis only the pod,  
Peas has shelled out and gone to God.

# Deacon's Digest

By Ali Laninga

## Giving in February 2016

	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Year-to- Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 1,372	\$ 6,092
General Fund Offerings	\$ 12,802	\$ 49,870
Rent / Utilities Income	910	3,869
Total Undesignated Income	13,712	53,739
General Fund Expenses	(17,346)	(53,231)
Income Over(Under) Expenses	\$ (3,634)	\$ 508
Total 2016 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 3 months		\$ 50,415
Total Undesignated Income		53,739
Income Over (Under) Budget		\$ 3,324

### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 22,500

The Deacons have a few items we would like for you to remember this month.

Our Spring Hymn Sing will be on Sunday, April 17 at 6:30 followed by a time of fellowship over pie and ice cream. This has become one of the favorite events at Hope in Christ. It's a time for you sing your favorite hymns led by Mark Ruiter, accompanied by Jan Scholten on the piano and Ruth Stadt on the organ. It will again be a wonderful time of worship and fellowship. This is a great event to invite a friend or neighbor to. Need a ride? Contact a Deacon (see weekly bulletin insert for phone #s) and we will make arrangements.



This month, April 2-23, Bud & Lorraine Brouwer and Lee & Arlene Veenstra will be serving with World Renew Disaster Response Services in Ocean County, NJ. They will be on a reconstruction team to help folks who were affected by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012.

Lets keep them in our prayers as they represent Hope in Christ Church in doing Diaconal work in Ocean County. Pray for safety, good health, with meaningful opportunities to bring and give hope to hurting people who suffered loss as a result of the hurricane.

## Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm to 8:30pm, Bellingham High School Auditorium, Free Forum: Love in a Time of Fear: Muslims, Christians and All Faiths as Good Neighbors

How can being a good neighbor, a core belief of all great religious traditions, translate into positive action towards Muslims and all faiths? Interfaith Coalition, and our other sponsors Lutheran Campus Ministry at WWU, and the Catacomb Churches, bring this special conversation to Bellingham on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. This forum, which is being conducted all over the Puget Sound region, will have local and regional guest speakers (including from the Muslim Community) talking about moving beyond extremism and fear, and forging new ways to work together. This special forum, open and free to all, will take place at Bellingham High School Auditorium. We have already sent the announcement about this event to each of your congregations' newsletter/bulletin writers and will begin community advertising soon. If you have questions, please call us.

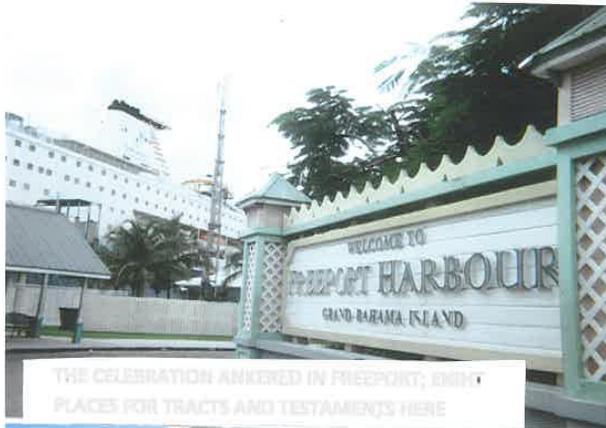
In this season of hope, we send our wishes for peace and joy to all of you and to share with your faith community. Blessings and many thanks –

Janie Pemble, Laura Harker, Carolyn Roy, Mike Hess, Peggy Lohse, and Andrea Hausner  
(Interfaith Coalition staff members)

## Singing in church

Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sang the songs of Satan. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

—John Wesley



Dear prayer Partners in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus:

With thanks and much praise to God, and you all, after ten years of prayer, planning and work the Seafarers Center and Chapel were opened on March 3, 2016. With Port officials and dignitaries, thanks was given to God, the Port, the volunteers and supporters. In prayer the facility was dedicated to God and the Seafarers. Then ribbons were cut with audience applause. The challenge is to better serve many sailors and all in the Port with the Grace and Love of the Good Shepherd.

Two cruise ships are at home in the Port. The Grand Celebration with capacity 1900 passengers and 548 crew, sails to Freeport, the Bahamas every other day. As a Chaplain I have the blessed privilege to lead worship services and do counseling for the crew any time. Three hundred Christmas packages were brought to the crew by volunteers. Same for Easter.

The other ship, the Blue Horizon, is a gaming ship. I was asked to bring a special service of thanks to our Veterans on board. The last half hour at sea all games were turned off so that every body could attend. We sang patriotic hymns, some vets gave testimonies and I could bring the Gospel of Grace. All awesome as we were sailing into the harbor.

OIL AND ALUMINUM TANKERS AT FERNDALE CHERRY POINT. Because security is very tight it takes special perseverance and time to serve on board. With two volunteers we usually get to the crew and at times can load up the van to take a load of Russians or (East) Indians to Walmart and Best Buy. This too is such a blessing. We then have time to pray for them and their families. Many will very gratefully accept Bibles in their own languages.

**NEEDS OF PRAYER OR PRAISE AND PETITION:**

1. Seafarers are often very stressed out and homesick. Pray for the hope and comfort of the Lord to be brought to the lonely and lost.
2. We use Bibles and Testaments in 30 languages. Our supplies, thankfully, way down because of need, a good problem because the Word goes into many directions into God's world.
3. Our budget is \$3,500 per month for operation costs and supplies. We need a few more churches and sponsors to keep up.

Thank you all for your love and help—sincerely in Christ, Ms. Jean and Pastor John Van Hemert.

Contact info: April—October their address is 1101 E Terrace Dr. Lynden 98264. email: [pastorvanhemert@gmail.com](mailto:pastorvanhemert@gmail.com). John's cell: 561-351-1239; Jean's cell 206-778-1523.

## Preaching Series:

- 4/3 Eph. 4:28, 5:1-2 Working for God  
4/10 Eph. 4:30-31 don't Grieve the Holy Spirit  
4/17 Psalm 119:105-112 Choose Christ  
**GEMS Sunday**  
4/24 2Th. 2:13-15 God Chose You To Be Saved -  
**Friendship Sunday**

## Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

- 4/3 Karen Smith and Chris Pike  
4/10 Mike and Jenn Boer  
4/17 Ruth Stadt and Joe Pruitt  
4/24 Jay and Avis Kaemingk

## Nursery Schedule

- 4/3 Jenn Boer, Tanya Obbink  
4/10 Connie Knutson and Terry Vander Woude  
4/17 Tricia Bravener and Avis Kaemingk  
4/24 Esther VandenBos and Ida Richards

## Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 4/3 Rosa McAlister and Tanya Obbink  
4/10 Lisa Oppenhuizen and Deloris Perry  
4/17 Mona Reardon and Darlys Recker  
4/24 Ida Richards and Jen Roberts

## Prayer Room

- 4/3 Herm Laninga  
4/10 Jay Kaemingk  
4/17 Ida Richards  
4/24 Connie Knutson

## Sunday School Schedule

- 4/3 Jolene Skovron, Jenn Boer, Tena Vanderpol  
4/10 Jolene Skovron, Jenn Boer, Tena Vanderpol  
4/17 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga  
4/24 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga

## Offering Schedule

- 4/3 General Fund  
4/10 General Fund  
4/17 Outreach Fund  
4/24 General Fund

## Ushering Schedule

- 4/3 Dale and Deloris Perry  
4/10 Joe Pruitt and Lou Kooistra  
4/17 Don Knutson and Helen Bowman  
4/24 Len Vander Woude and Bud Brouwer

## Children & Worship Schedule

- 4/3 Dan Obbink and Ali Laninga  
4/10 Ida Richards and Amber Obbink  
4/17 Diane Button and Kylie Thramer  
4/24 Dan Obbink and Ev Kooistra

## Congregational Birthdays For April

- 04 Dan Obbink  
06 Roland Vanden Bos  
15 Debra Reamer  
19 Denise Doezema  
20 Gloria Groothuis  
22 Jerry Hop  
25 Mark Ruiters  
27 Scott Roberts



# Birthdays

***“Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep.”***  
**—Carl Sandburg**

# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 8:30-Noon Vitality Workshop
<i>3</i> 9:30 Service 11 Sunday Schl  6:00pm TAG in Sanctuary	<i>4</i> 6:30 GEMS Mtg	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 10am Women's Grp  10am Men's Coffee Grp 7pm Elders  7pm Deacons	<i>7</i> 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice  7pm Men's Grp	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 8:30-9:15 Breakfast for all  9-Noon campus clean-up
<i>10</i> 9:30 Service 11 Sunday Schl  4:30 Scotts Grp  7pm Laninga Grp	<i>11</i> 7pm Friendship	<i>12</i> 6:30pm Boers Grp	<i>13</i> 10am Women's Grp 10am Men's Coffee Grp  7pm Council	<i>14</i> 6:30am Men's Grp  7pm Praise Team Practice  7pm Men's Grp	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> 9:30 Service and GEMS Sunday 11 Sunday Schl for children and prayer time  6:30 Hymn Sing 	<i>18</i> 6:30 GEMS Mtg	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 10am Women's Grp  10am Men's Coffee Grp	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 9:30 Service and Friendship Sunday  11 Sunday Schl  4:30 Scotts Grp  7pm Laninga	<i>25</i> 7pm Friendship	<i>26</i> 6:30pm Boers Grp	<i>27</i> 10am Women's Grp  10am Men's Coffee Grp	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>