



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

Volume 23 MAY 2016 Issue 5

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

Dancing and Worship

Submitted by Pastor Scott

Since Palm Sunday, our congregation has made banners available for adults and children alike who desire to worship with song and dance. As this is a new experience for our congregation, it seems wise to present a Scriptural rationale for this change and to discuss some guidelines that may be helpful as our younger and older members choose to dance and sing.

In Psalm 149:3 and 150:4 we find two explicit references to song and dance. **Let [God's people] praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp and Praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute.** Certainly, two verses doesn't make a theology, and I would not presume such a fallacious argument, but these two verses are fairly clear that God's people are instructed to worship him with song and dance. Psalm 68 talks about God's victorious deliverance of Israel and in verse 25 we find that the singers are at the front, followed by the musicians, followed by the 'maidens playing tambourines.' Though not explicit, it seems like an apt conclusion that these maidens were dancing, for Exodus 15:20-22 records the great deliverance through the Red Sea after which God's men are worshipping and Miriam leads the women of Israel in song and dance with the tambourine. Again in Psalm 20:5 we find the people declaring "**We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God.**" Even David dances before the ark as he moved it to Jerusalem (2Sam 6:14). In fact, there are numerous biblical references to dance, banners, flags, standards, ensigns and other words which refer to what we call flags.

But probably one of the most interesting statements about worship in Scripture is found in 2Chronicles 20:21. King

Jehoshaphat is under attack from the Moabites, Ammonites and Meunites. God instructs him not to be afraid but to go down to the battle for God is with them. The text reads as follows: **After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.'** And they were delivered. Now certainly this statement makes no direct reference to dance, but as the psalms showed, song and dance were related, especially as a response to victory (1Sam 18:6-7). But even if dance were eliminated from this reference, we still see the powerful role that worship plays in the battles of God's people. Where else in history would an army fall behind the choir when going to battle?

I believe these passages teach us that dance is a part of worship, it is to be joyful, celebratory and a part of offering our whole life to the Lord in praise. He has rescued us and we respond with exuberance. But with exuberance, comes the need for instruction and caution. Like any worshipful act, our desire must be to praise God and not cause our brothers and sisters to stumble. It is for this reason that we have allocated the dancing space behind the main seating area. We do not want eyes watching men and women, but hearts attuned to God. Our dancing is for the Lord, not for mortals. Second, because we do have some people who occasionally sit in the back rows, we ask all dancers to be respectful and aware of those seated at the very back. Please do not block their line of sight to the overhead lyrics. Finally, for our children who are dancing, we would ask that parents be present with their children to ensure that they are dancing in a manner of worship, and not throwing banners, running around or playing.

...continued on page three

Items of Interest from April's Council Meeting

By Brian Koning

Reports:

Elder's report

- We discussed the Behavioral Covenant, which will be presented on May 1st to the congregation. This will be voted on, and should it pass by majority, every member and attender will be asked to sign. All future new members will be expected to sign this document. An announcement will be in the bulletin two Sundays prior to the day of the Congregational Meeting's vote (May 1).
- We discussed the elders' vote to move forward in regards to Children at the Lord's Table (per CRC Synodical recommendation), creating a venue/program for children to come to the Lord's Table. An age-appropriate avenue will be developed at a later date. Please see your elder if you have any questions about this.

Deacon's report

- Christine reported that we have a \$2,300 surplus on the current fiscal year, thanks largely to increased rent.
- Christine reported on various diaconal contacts that have been made.
- Dan will be reporting on the financial status of the church on the Congregational Meeting May 1st.

A meeting with Scott Emory & Ray Deck (a representative from Skookum Kids) was reported on. This is a faith-based organization that cares for foster kids on an emergency basis for 72-hour periods of time while transitioning from foster home to foster home. This will be a charity that may be worthy of support from our congregation in the future.

Building & Grounds Maintenance Committee Report

- Lou reported that the shower in the ministry house is finished.
- The work party went well. Thanks to Mark Ruiten for the use of his Bobcat, Deloris & her gang for the delicious breakfast, and everyone who came out to move bark, pull weeds, and trim.
- It was discussed to rid ourselves of the 3-roomed portables in the back. These will be given away for free, at the movers cost. Details of timing to be worked out by the potential taker. This unanimously passed.
- The lawnmower was sold for \$135. We plan to use the mowing service that mows the rest of the grounds to now mow the back.

It was discussed that we move forward with three sandwich boards for roadside advertising, and that we approve up to \$500 for this purpose. This unanimously passed. David will take this project on. Herm, Lou, & Mike are working on concepts relating to updating the signage for the campus.

Rental Team

Legacy Church is paying \$450/month rent; this is currently a 1-year agreement.

Old Business:

- Next Talking About God – The next meeting will be the first Sunday in June (**June 5**).
- Planning for the World Renew Mission project Eastern Washington this summer continues to progress.
- Elder and Deacon nominations were finalized, and ready for lots/acclamation in May:
Deacon: Lisa DeSalvo, Elaine Snapper and Terry Vander Woude
Elder: Faye Hop, Joe Pruitt, and Don Recker

New Business

- The future of the nursery and children in worship was discussed. We discussed the possibility of adopting a position of being a 'Family Integrated Church.' We will continue to discuss this, but will consider this again in the upcoming months. If you have any input for your elder/deacon, please contact them with your thoughts.

Up-Coming Events:

- a) Prayer Meeting – 4/15 during Sunday School
- b) Communion Sunday – 5/1
- c) Congregation Meeting: 5/1 Elders/Deacons and Vitality Behavioral Covenant
- d) No TAG on 5/1
- e) Deacons and Elders Meeting 5/4 at 7:00 PM
- f) Council Meeting – Wednesday 5/11 at 7:00 PM
- g) Prayer Time every Sunday at 08:15 upstairs. All welcome.

A mother's prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Don't scratch the arteries" by Spencer Hinds

Submitted by Alice Brakke, Parish Nurse

Sunday school topic for May 22 will be on matters of the heart with a lecture presented by cardiologist, Dr. Spencer Hinds. This will be presented during the usual Sunday School hour from 11AM to about 12 Noon, give or take for time to ask questions.

Dr Hinds is a Washington native and attended the University of Wash. His training took him to upstate New York and North Carolina. He is currently practicing in Bellingham and I have had the pleasure of working with him in the critical care unit. He has a heart for the Lord and often been observed praying with his patients.

I have heard him lecture on several occasions and find him an excellent speaker, presenting concepts in a very easy to understand terms. I hope you will be able to join us--May 22.



Dancing and Worship...cont. from page one

Certainly, we don't want to hinder any fun that comes, but we want to keep the atmosphere of our service, reverent, joyful, exuberant and Christ-focused. Finally, if you want to participate, but feel awkward, Caroline is willing to help instruct dancers in a few simple movements, just ask. But feel no obligation. Rather we simply want to make an opportunity available to those who desire to worship through dance.

Finally, for those wishing to read a contrary opinion about the appropriateness of dance in worship, I would direct you to search for Noah Manring's Masters Thesis entitled The Elements of Dance in Worship. Though I disagree with his conclusions on a number of fronts. One quick simple reason being: if we are to sing to the Lord, how can we reject the other instructions of the psalter to dance as well? Nevertheless, his thesis is a well-written, theologically grounded opinion, opposite to my own.

Love In The Name Of Christ

Love INC exists to exalt Jesus Christ by serving those in need through referrals, church partnership and prayer. Our vision is to see Christian churches united and engaged in the purpose of ministering the Love of Christ to those in need in our area through the Love INC partnering-strategy and model. Love In the name of Christ's mission is to network and mobilize the church to transform lives and communities.

Clearinghouse (call center): When a person calls a Love INC affiliate for help, trained church volunteers listen with God's heart. The focus is upon the person, not merely upon "fixing" a presenting need. The client participates in our intake process; our office verifies and screens for legitimacy. Our office then discerns the best resources to refer them to. This ministry operates Monday-Thursday 9-1pm.

Furnished with Love: Love Inc. also helps facilitate a furniture ministry that receives donated furniture, bedding, household items and delivers them to people in need. This ministry operates Tuesday 8:30-1pm and one Saturday moving day a month.

1-on-1 Managing Your Money: Love Inc. facilitates a free 12-week budget coaching course! This course typically runs with the fall/winter/spring quarter schedule and rests in the summer. This ministry operates quarterly on Thursday evenings 6-8pm hosted at Bellingham Covenant Church.

Volunteer opportunities: All of our ministries are fully run by Christian volunteers and we are presently in need of new volunteers. If you're interested in serving as a volunteer with any one of these ministries, please call Love Inc.'s office 671-6201 and/or stop by and pick up a volunteer application. You can also email us at office@whatcomloveinc.org.

Donation Items we receive: Furniture, Bedding, Household items, diapers. Love, INC recently received a large donation of queen size mattresses and they are now in need of sets of sheets to give with the mattresses.



Deacon's Digest

By Ali Laninga

The Deacons sponsored an inspirational Spring Hymn Sing on April 17 that was enjoyed by 50+ people. As in the past, individuals suggested hymns to sing and shared why it was a favorite. A big thank you to Mark Ruiter for leading us and to Jan Scholten and Ruth Stadt for accompanying on the piano and organ. It was followed by fellowship over pie and ice cream!

The Deacons heard a presentation by Ray Deck and Scott Emory regarding a faith-based organization called Skookum Kids. This non-profit organization provides a safe place for children who are entering or transitioning in the Foster Care system in Whatcom County. The Skookum House, a volunteer-staffed facility, is available to Case Workers seven day a week to provide up to 72-hours of care for a child as they transition into Foster Care. The Deacons felt this to be a very worthwhile organization and made a contribution to them. If you would like more information or may be interested in volunteering, you can find it on their website at Skookumkids.org.

Have you ever wondered how the Christian Reformed Church is involved in Social Justice issues nationally and internationally? Check out their website at crjustice.org. You can stay informed by signing up for their Newsletter.

Giving in March 2016 Submitted by Dan Obbink

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 906	\$ 6,998
General Fund Offerings	\$ 12,617	\$ 62,487
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>6,495</u>	<u>10,364</u>
Total Undesignated Income	19,112	72,851
General Fund Expenses	<u>(16,730)</u>	<u>(69,691)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 2,382</u>	<u>\$ 2,890</u>
Total 2016 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 4 months		\$ 67,220
Total Undesignated Income		<u>72,851</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 5,631</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 22,500

Information from Brian and Melissa Koning

We just had a good conversation with our adoption agency. Although we've been in the waiting process for several months, we've been told to expect the process to get a bit more exciting soon. It's possible we might be matched with a child (boy, 0-3 years old, from China) by this summer. The likely travel dates might be Sept to Dec. As everyone knows, timetables with adoptions are incredibly unpredictable, so these are our best guesses.

Several people have been asking how they can help. For better or worse, it takes \$33,000 - \$38,000 to give a forever-home to an orphan from China, but that leaves us in a place where we need to do some fundraising.

If the Lord lays it on your heart to tangibly partner with us on our adoption journey, below are three opportunities to join us in financially supporting us or helping with our planned events.

First, Brian & Melis will be offering to take family portraits in an outdoor, natural light, setting. **Please see the posted flyer** in the foyer for more information. If this is of interest to you, please shoot us an email (twokonings@yahoo.com) so we can make arrangements. We are hoping to do these weekend photo sessions in May.

Second, we will be collecting items for a rummage sale to be held at church **July 22/23**. Feel free to bring good items and leave them in the middle portable.

Third, we tentatively plan to hold a dinner experience fundraiser in August. We have a lot of details to hammer out with this, but we hope it'll be a fun (and maybe even educational!) opportunity.

Of course, our biggest request is that you join us in prayer for our family and the little one who will be joining us. We've been so in awe of how God has worked in the recent Ruiter adoption, and we look forward to seeing the magnificent unfolding of how God's plan will play out with our family as well!



Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for March 2016 by Joe Strong
(NWHM, 701 W Blackburn Road., Mount Vernon WA 98273)

Eighteen couples came to the Amor Viviente Valentine's Dinner. We had a program of a video, a talk about Christian marriage and a wonderful dinner at Jofish in Lynden. Our church is doing very well. Every Sunday, we are filling the building. There is an excitement, an expectation of what the Holy Spirit is going to bring each Sunday. Some of our Sunday School teachers are complaining that there is not enough room for all the children that come. We thank God for this.

Our Vida Nueva Church in Mt. Vernon has also had growth lately. For the last month around 18 or 20 adults have been coming along with their children. What a joy to see this church pick up! Thank you for your prayers.

In my last prayer letter I asked for prayer for two people in particular. Mickey who had been a white supremacist, who wanted to get into our Bridges of Hope house had disappeared the day he got out of jail. Well, Mickey was back in jail 2 weeks later. He told me that the day he got out, he got some bad news and decided to get drunk. He is waiting trial. I told him that in order to get into our house he needed some sort of treatment and to show he was dedicated to change. The other man who I wrote about was Herman. He had left our church after being baptized. Since he was bailed out of jail, he had attended our church every Sunday morning. He comes with his wife and 3 children. Prayer works.

Last Sunday on my way to church, I received 2 phone calls about Fausta, a member of the Amor Viviente Church in Lynden. Her parents who had been traveling by bus in Mexico were involved in a wreck when the bus left the road and rolled. I was told at first that both her parents were killed but later on we discovered that only her father was killed. Fausta's husband is in the immigration jail in New Mexico and she is home with 6 children. Pray for this dear woman.

"Chaplain, I really need to change." These words came from Jesus a Mexican American man in the jail. I spend time talking about real change that comes when a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior. Jesus asked me to visit his wife which I agreed to. I called her and I came to her house on Saturday. I knocked and behold Jesus opened the door. He had bailed out. He came to church the next day with his family. He came the next Sunday as well. Pray that Jesus will continue to seek the Savior and not be discouraged. Thank you for your support.

Church History Vitality Workshop – Sunday May 15 (5:00 PM)

Submitted by Herm Laninga

Please mark your calendars to attend another Vitality Workshop. This one will focus on the history of Hope in Christ Church, from it's founding to today. Here's the process:

1. On Sunday, May 8 you will be given a hand-out summarizing the history of Hope in Christ Church decade by decade.
2. Based on this hand-out (and your memory), let Terry Vander Woude know that week which decade you came to HICC. Terry will also send out an email reminder.

May 15 – All church Potluck at 5:00 PM – Workshop at 6:00 (**Please bring the hand-out you received on May 8.**) The Hospitality Team will inform us what to bring.

Here's what will happen at the workshop:

1. Sit at the table of the decade you started attending HICC. Tables will be labeled with decade numbers (1959-1969; 1970-1979; 1980-1989, etc.). **Note:** If you came as a child, you can, if you prefer, choose to sit at the table of the decade when you became a teen.
2. Table discussion – A facilitator will manage the discussion and recorder will take notes. **Each table is asked to limit their discussion to their decade.** Share both positive and difficult memories of your decade. Help the recorder decide which markers of the Health Missional Church were evident during your decade. (They will be listed on each sheet.)
3. Sharing – Either the facilitator or the recorder will be asked to share positive and difficult memories from their decade. We will do this decade by decade. Once a decade table has given their report, I will ask if anyone from another table has something to add.

Final comments and closing prayer: 8:00 PM.

Follow Up: The Vitality Team, Jenn Boer, Scott Emory, Ev Kooistra, Herm Laninga and Pastor Scott, will review the sheets turned in by the recorders and write up a summary report for both Council and Congregation.

The finest hymn

Reginald Heber (1783-1826), a vicar and hymn-writer in England, was the first person to compile a hymnal based around the church calendar. He composed the beloved hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” specifically for Trinity Sunday, with lyrics based on Revelation 4:8-11.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The joyful song celebrates the eternal, omnipotent Triune God. Throughout the verses, Heber used units of three to symbolize the Trinity (God is “perfect in power, in love and purity”; God is worshiped by saints, cherubim and seraphim; and he’s praised “in earth and sky and sea”).

Heber, who witnessed much idol worship while serving as Bishop of Calcutta, often reaffirmed God’s holiness in his hymns.

British poet laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson so admired the uplifting language in “Holy, Holy, Holy” that he proclaimed it the finest hymn ever written.

Mission Trip Update

Details are coming together for the upcoming mission trip to the Okanagan County to help with those affected by the fires. The team will be leaving Saturday, June 11th and returning on June 18th.

The team will be hosted by the River of Life Church, located in Omak. The church is allowing us to pitch tents, hook up a few trailers and use their rooms as bedrooms for those not tenting. We will be able to have the full use of their church, including the kitchen.

It is not definite yet as to what we will be doing, but it most likely will include fence construction and repair, painting houses or brush cleanup.

If you would like to help with the expenses incurred by the group, please donate through the Deacons.

Jerry and Faye, Len and Terry

Preaching Series:

- 5/1 Eph. 4:32-5:2 Put On A Heart Of Gold
- 5/8 Luke 24:50-43, Acts 1:9-11 Meaning of Ascension
- 5/15 Pentecost Prayer Service
- 5/22 Eph. 5:3-7 Staying Chaste
- 5/29 Eph. 5:8-20 Living Lights

Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

- 5/1 Mike and Jenn Boer
- 5/8 Lou and Evelyn Kooistra
- 5/15 Joe and Barb Zylstra
- 5/22 David and Ida Richards
- 5/29 Herm and Ali Laninga

Nursery Schedule

- 5/1 Rosa McAlister and Terry Vander Woude
- 5/8 Avis Kaemingk and Esther VandenBos
- 5/15 Lorraine Brouwer and Ida Richards
- 5/22 Barb Zylstra and Jolene Skovron
- 5/29 Denise Doezema and Tanya Obbink

Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 5/1 Rockelle Ruiters and Jan Scholten
- 5/8 Joanne Schultz and Jolene Skovron
- 5/15 Karen Smith and Elaine Snapper
- 5/22 Megan Speyer and Christine Speyer
- 5/29 Ruth Stadt and Donna Van Beek

Sunday School Schedule

- 5/1 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga
- 5/8 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga
- 5/15 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga
- 5/22 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga
- 5/29 Diane Button, Ida Richards, Herm & Ali Laninga

Offering Schedule

- 5/1 General Fund
- 5/8 General Fund
- 5/15 Outreach Fund
- 5/22 General Fund
- 5/29 Benevolence Fund

Ushering Schedule

- 5/1 Dale and Deloris Perry
- 5/8 Joe Pruitt and Len Vander Woude
- 5/15 Lou Kooistra and Helen Bowman
- 5/22 Bud Brouwer and Don Knutson
- 5/29 Dale and Deloris Perry

Children & Worship Schedule

- 5/1 Bekah Roberts and Megan Speyer
- 5/8 Rosa McAlister and Amber Obbink
- 5/15 Diane Button and Ali Laninga
- 5/22 Dan Obbink and Kylie Thrumer
- 5/29 Bekah Roberts and Evelyn Kooistra

Prayer Room

- 5/1 Christine Speyer
- 5/8 Lorraine Brouwer
- 5/15 Lanny Speyer
- 5/22 Denise Doezema
- 5/29 Don Vanderpol

Congregational Birthdays For May

- 1 David Richards
- 6 Jr. Johnson
- 9 Elaine Snapper
- 18 Peter Senti
- 19 Lanny Speyer
- 24 Megan Speyer
- 31 Elaine Barringer



May 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 9:30 Service 11:00 Sunday School and Congr. Mtg	2 6:30 GEMS	3	4 9:45 Women's Study Group 10:00 Men's Gathering 7pm Elders and Deacons Meet	5 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Group 7pm Praise Practice	6	7
8 9:30 Service 11:00 Sunday School for all <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> 	9 6:00pm Friendship Potluck	10 6:30pm Boer's Study Group	11 9:45 Women's Study Group 10:00 Men's Gathering 7pm Council	12 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Group 7pm Praise Practice	13	14
15 9:30 Service 11:00 Sunday School for all 5pm Potluck 6pm Vitality Workshop	16 6:30 GEMS	17	18 9:45 Women's Study Group and potluck 10:00 Men's Gathering 7pm Team Leaders Mtg.	19 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Group 7pm Praise Practice	20	21
22 9:30 Service 11:00 Sunday School for all 4:30 Roberts Grp 7pm Laninga Grp	23	24 6:30pm Boer's study group	25 10:00 Men's Gathering	26 6:30am Men's Study Grp 7pm Men's Study Group 7pm Praise Practice	27	28
29 9:30 Service 11:00 Sunday School for all	30 MEMORIAL DAY 	31				

