

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

June 2018 Issue

When the Elder and Deacon Come Calling...

By Pastor Scott

“Fred and Sally, can a deacon and I come over to visit sometime this week?”

“Why? We don’t have anything going on that needs an elder visit.”

“I know, but I would love to come and spend some time with your family to pray and get to know you more deeply so that my deacon partner and I can serve you well and help you to continue to grow in your love for God, his word, his people and his purposes.”

Admittedly, the conversation is never that scripted and rarely are people quite so blunt with their questions, but the fact remains that family visits have fallen out of favor with congregants and council members alike. This is an unfortunate tragedy for a number of reasons; let me name but two.

First, Hebrews 13:17 reminds us that the leaders of the church are called to keep watch over the souls of those who are entrusted into their care. In fact, it goes on to declare that they will “have to give an account.” For what will these leaders be required to account? The implication is that first they must give an **account of their service**. Did they care for the sheep? Were they aware of the joys and sorrows, the strengths and the weakness of their people? Did they help the erring, and encourage the doubting, and pray for those in their care? But there is a second thing that we often don’t think about, and that is the leaders of the church must give an **account of the sheep** as well. Were they willing to learn? Hostile to authority? Joyfully helping in the ministry, or selfishly guarded about committing too much? When your elder and deacon come calling, their desire is to come as a friend who can exercise their responsibility to God and to you. They want to under-

stand your life and inform their prayers, and be an encouragement to you.

Second, when the elders and deacons don’t get out, or people refuse to welcome them, then the discernment needed to accurately lead the church is missing. Without knowing the struggles in people’s lives or the joys they are experiencing, without hearing the stories of how God is blessing and growing you and your family, it becomes very difficult to plan and lead. But when the council is full of stories about how God is at work, or questions that are plaguing people, patterns are more easily seen and the guiding of the Spirit is more clearly discerned.

What then, should you expect when an elder or deacon invite themselves over? Expect to have a conversation with two normal people about life. This isn’t a time when your house must be spotless, the tea and cookies fresh, and everyone on their best behavior. Let me repeat, this isn’t needed, expected nor is it helpful. Instead, expect to simply sit and talk about what God is showing you as you read the Bible, or prayer needs that are burning on your heart, or hopes that you have for the church or concerns and questions that you have about church life or even how to approach a situation you are facing.

This may sound fearful, but it is really an act of love on the part of both parties. As the leaders of the church, it is loving to care and pray and share from our experiences and understanding of the Word. As those receiving the leaders of the body, it is loving to entrust at least some of your life to these men and women God has established for your benefit. So, the next time an elder and deacon come calling, please don’t run from the invitation, or put them off, or refuse to move beyond small talk or put on a show. No, be real and share your life as they earnestly desire to share their life with you.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FAMILY

By Elaine Snapper

This month I'm featuring Philip Bergman. You may recall that he was the narrator when about five or six men in our church read and enacted the lengthy scripture the last Sunday in April about Hezekiah and the king of Assyria. He was the one who could read all the challenging names with such ease. He did admit to receiving a little coaching from Pastor Scott, but we also could attribute it to his working in commercial radio in Michigan. He was once a disc jockey and would enjoy doing it again.

Philip grew up in Hamilton, Michigan, a small farming community south of Holland, Michigan. His family consisted of his parents, two sisters and two brothers. He attended Hamilton Elementary, then Hamilton Junior/Senior High School in the public schools there. He graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in telecommunication. He grew up in the Hamilton Christian Reformed Church. One interesting factoid about that church, he says, is that the Hamilton High School homecoming parade began in the church parking lot and ended at the high school; while on Memorial Day, the parade began at the high school and ended in the cemetery across the street from the church. According to Philip, area churches would do pancake breakfasts on some of the holidays; his church annually hosting one on Memorial Day. He jokes that he is highly disappointed that the churches around here don't participate in that sort of thing.

When I asked Philip how he happened to come to this part of the country from Michigan, he admitted that it was because of a romantic relationship, that began online in 2009. She lived in Coquitlam, B.C., and in 2011, Philip transferred from Lansing, Michigan to Everett while working for an inventory company. He started working in the post office in 2012, in Arlington, and he moved from Everett to Mount Vernon shortly thereafter. He transferred from Arlington to the Bellingham/Mt. Baker post office in 2013, but he commuted from Mount Vernon until 2016, when he moved to a basement of a house that he shares with two others just off Laurel, in Bellingham. Sadly, shortly after moving to Whatcom County, his romantic relationship ended.

Philip's job is that of a Rural Carrier Associate, but he said that basically means that he is a sub. He is guaranteed a minimum of one day a week, but he often averages three or four days a week, and he pretty much always works on Saturdays. It is rare when he can enjoy a Saturday off. He didn't even have to take a civil service test for his job, saying the post office no longer requires it.

Acting in the theater in high school was very enjoyable to him, and he worked as a member of the cast and as part of the stage crew. Two of the more well-known plays he performed in were "Godspell" and "Charlotte's

Web." His love of theater includes the cinema, and he often goes to the movies. He likes a variety of genres of film and said that he also usually makes it a point to see the faith-based films that come out. He talked about those works of art being graded on the same scale as secular movies. For instance, he said "Heaven is for Real" was good, "Noah" was a failure on multiple levels, and "Samson" was good in its faithfulness to Scripture, but had cinematic flaws. When I questioned him about a favorite movie I attended lately, he said that he refused to attend that one—"I Can Only Imagine." When questioned why, he said that it was because as a disc jockey, that song was played too often. He dislikes modern mainstream country music. He does enjoy a variety of music and really enjoys early rock and roll from the 50's through the 70's. Speaking of music, Philip's main hobby is the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," and he was fortunate to find an online community of people who share that interest. He even has a blog about it. When it comes to worship, he prefers the older hymns to the modern praise songs.

Philip attends one of the "The Story" study groups, and he is an active participant, and he comes across as very knowledgeable about the Bible. He claims to have a love for the minor prophets and finding the meaning in places other than Paul's epistles. Daniel is one of his favorite books, as are Luke, Amos, Revelation, and especially Proverbs. He feels that for evangelism, Proverbs displays common grace through wisdom and the proverbs speak to the religious and secular alike, making it a good place to begin in sharing our faith with non-believers.

Philip doesn't claim to be much of a cook, though would like to flex those skills more. The kitchen in his basement dwelling is not very adequate for cooking, and he barely finds room to make a sandwich. Often, he leans towards grabbing some fast food. He does love Italian, Mexican, and most seafood--shrimp, clams, clam chowder and lobster. He also does love sushi and steak. He enjoys Skylarks and the Waterfront Tavern, and generally avoids more spicy cuisine.

Philip inherited a cat from a previous landlord. Mickey is a brown tabby, about 12 years old. His roommates enjoy the cat, and the landlords appreciate the pest control Mickey provides.

Philip has been back to Michigan a few times: two family weddings, one family funeral, and his father's 80th birthday.

A couple things that Philip wants you to know about him is that if you see him yawning in church, it is not because he is bored. Philip's daily routine is usually frenetic and often involves Mountain Dew (Code Red is his favorite flavor); however, he makes a point not to drink any before church on Sunday. The combination of deliberately pausing life and the eschewing of morning caffeine makes the Sabbath a bit more restful for

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him than for others--the yawning is not a commentary about Pastor Scott's preaching! He is slowly trying to learn people's names, and while he participates in the mutual greeting portion of the service, he doesn't really feel comfortable shaking hands unless he is familiar with you.

If you haven't met Philip, say "Hello" to him. Just don't take offense if he's reluctant to shake hands or struggles to remember your name. He swears it's nothing personal.

Vitality Team Report

By Lou Kooistra

As we slip from spring into summer soon it seems hard to believe the current Vitality Team has been together for a year already. The team members are: Lou Kooistra, Jenn Boer, Dan Obbink, Denise Doezeema, Brian Koning and Joe Pruitt.

Our church family had just completed the Pulse Survey and we were tasked with reviewing the results and identifying our weaknesses, specifically organic evangelism and reading/knowing the scriptures. With the help of Phil Assink of Edmonds, we formulated a plan for the 2018 year to get us back on track and more focused on being a missional church.

One of the first things we needed was a mission statement so after much discussion we have our current one, which we recite every Sunday service. Very soon we will have our mission statement displayed in the foyer. During this time the Admin building had some remodeling done with both offices moved downstairs, the bulletin revamped, and some website redesign. Then we formulated a plan to have the congregation do "The Story" together as a body. Books were ordered and we are almost done for the summer break. Many are learning God's "upper story" through the sermons and the follow-up discussion groups. We listen to individual testimonies weekly and it's all been such a blessing to many.

We also spent a lot of time creating signage for our building so we are more visible to visitors who look for our worship center. Signs will be up hopefully in June or July.

We hope to do some fun things as well such as an apple cider party in the big lawn out front of Legacy church in the fall. Sunnyland stomp in July is another thing we would like to participate in. We are trying to get Tina Crosby to do another communication seminar the fall for those who enjoyed the last one.

Throughout the summer we hope to look for people interested in serving for a year on the next Vitality team, people who might have a vision for our church to keep it viable and missional, to plant ideas on paper, and then

carry them out. So, if you have a heart for serving on the Vitality team, please contact Lou Kooistra (360-820-2548) or any of the other team members. Thank you!

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report

By Joe Strong

Two weeks ago, we took our second offering to help believers who live in Venezuela. Nearly everybody has heard of the suffering that is taking place in that country. Thousands of people have left to find their future in other countries. We have several families in our Amor Viviente Church in Lynden. These families have been giving us updates of just how hard it is to live there daily. There is no currency. Food is very expensive. Telephone service is only by cell phones in many areas, because the land lines have all been stolen and sold. The salary of those who have jobs does not cover basic needs. So, in December our church took an offering and we sent over \$3,000. We heard back directly for many of those helped. So much good will for so little money. We helped 48 families. In April, we took another offering and once more we sent more than \$3,000. One woman in Venezuela paid for a water truck to come to her barrio where she shared the water with her neighbors. Another person used the \$50 he received to put new sheeting on his leaky roof. A third person had been experiencing a lot of headaches and went to the doctor. With her money, she got glasses and her headaches went away. Others reported buying food and sharing it with others. Most people never dreamed that a church in another country would remember them. I think just the hope, just the thought of others praying for them gave them more than the money. Continue to remember our fellow Christians in Venezuela.

The other day, I received a text out of the blue from the mother. The words sounded of desperation. She asked me to visit her son, who was addicted to drugs and who was in jail. I turned to my friend who was with me and I said, "this text feels like God is speaking to me." I went to visit this gang member and when I inquired of him with the sergeant, he said to me, "Do you know this guy? This man is extremely violent. Let me call to the isolation block and see if he is even capable of having a visit." I had the visit. He was not very open to the gospel. But he agreed for me to come again. Pray for me as I do some very tough visits in the jails. God does not show partiality.

Northwest Hispanic Ministry reaches a lot of people with the love of Jesus. Your financial help and your prayers are vital to this ministry. Thank you for being faithful. Our churches are doing well. I am doing well. Thank you, Jesus.

Family Promise of Whatcom County Update

By Herm Laninga

Dear Hope in Christ Church Family,

Our involvement as a Supporting Congregation in Whatcom County's Family Promise is about to blossom! As you learned from the blue Family Promise bulletin inserts, we will be supporting First Christian Church as they host families the **week of July 8-15!**

We also learned that a Hispanic Church that meets at First Christian Church has also offered to be a Supporting Congregation. For those of us that attended the Spirit-filled May 20 evening Pentecost Service featuring multicultural worship, this represents another exciting opportunity to work with Christian brothers and sisters of a different heritage to be the hands and feet of Christ to our homeless neighbors and their children.

Volunteer training is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12 from 6-8:30 PM at First Christian Church (corner of Bakerview and Deemer Rd.) If you have a schedule conflict with that time, there will be other opportunities for training.

If you are not certain what role you would feel suited for, come to the training and learn more about the various opportunities before you commit! Your questions regarding the various positions will be answered and you'll be impressed with the organizational quality of the Family Promise team.

Finally, there will be a fun fund-raiser for Family Promise: **The 2nd Annual Bed Race** on Sept. 30 at Civic Field! www.familypromisebedrace.com

Turn in your blue volunteer sheets to Ali, Herm or Lorraine. If you have questions on how you can be involved in Family Promise contact anyone of us. For more info, visit the following website:

www.interfaith-coalition.org/programs/family-promise

Giving in April 2018

	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 2,210	\$ 14,814
General Fund Offerings	\$25,791	\$103,236
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,788</u>	<u>12,323</u>
Total Undesignated Income	28,579	115,559
General Fund Expenses	<u>(17,359)</u>	<u>(88,205)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$11,220</u>	<u>\$ 27,354</u>
Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 224,758
Year-to-Date Budget for 5 months		\$ 93,649
Total Undesignated Income		<u>115,559</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 21,910</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 17,500

From the Hospitality Committee

By Ruth Stadt

Thank you to all for your willingness to bring cookies each Sunday when asked. Also, a thank you to the young people who faithfully serve. This is deeply appreciated.

For the past few Sundays, we have been running out of cookies. We are now asking three people to bring at least 4 + dozen when asked. Please remember that this is just a treat. Thank you!!!

We are also planning a birthday dinner sometime in late October or early November for all ages. We plan to have 12 tables, one for each month. Each table will put their "thinking caps" on and come up with a plan for a skit or something to share for entertainment following the dinner. If an idea comes to your mind beforehand, jot it down to share when it's time! Much more information will be coming in the next few months.

Items of Interest from May's Council Meeting

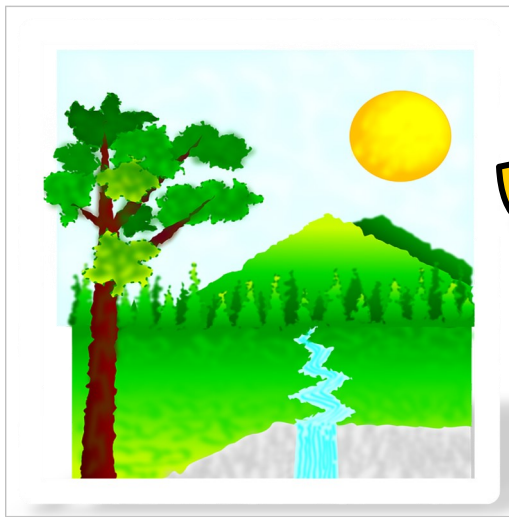
By Joe Pruitt

Ministry house usage update: Pastor Scott has talked with several people interested in renting office space. Council in favor of Pastor Scott/rental team finalizing details and moving forward with renting office space in the ministry house.

Family Promise of Whatcom County: Change in venue for HCC support participation. Will provide support at First Christian Church (host church). The first week scheduled July 8-15. Volunteer training is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12 from 6:00-8:30pm at First Christian Church. There will be a table in the HCC foyer and inserts in the bulletin for volunteer opportunities.

Strategic Planning Team: Building signage- Provided sample pictures of proposed signage for HCC campus at the last potluck. Cost \$6800 for all 3 signs. Lou motioned, Dan seconded to approve moving forward with purchase of signage. Discussed payment options.

Vitality Team: Brief discussion of ending service of current team and forming a new team. Potentially by fall. Will be looking for new people soon.



June 2018

Greeters Schedule

- 3 Lisa Oppenhuizen, Ruth Stadt
- 10 Jay & Avis Kaemingk
- 17 Del & Pat Bosman
- 24 Jerry & Faye Hop

Cookie Schedule

- 3 Karen Smith, Christine Speyer, Donna VanBeek
- 10 Lisa DeSalvo, Ruth Stadt, Elaine Snapper
- 17 Pat Bosman, Tena Vanderpol, Barb Zylstra
- 24 Jenn Boer, Alice Brakke, Tricia Bravener

Serving Assistants

- 3 Grace, Chantel, Amber
- 10 Zeke, Maggie, Faith
- 17 Mattea, Abee, Michal
- 24 Brenna, Amber, Clara

Prayer Room

- 3 Lorraine Brouwer
- 10 Ken Wick
- 17 Ida Richards
- 24 Herm Laninga

Offering Schedule

- 3 Kingdom Advancement
- 10 Kingdom Advancement
- 17 Outreach
- 24 Kingdom Advancement

Ushering Schedule

- 3 Deloris Perry, Bud Brouwer
- 10 Helen Bowman, Don Knutson
- 17 Barb & Joe Zylstra
- 24 Elaine Snapper, Lou Kooistra

Foyer Monitor

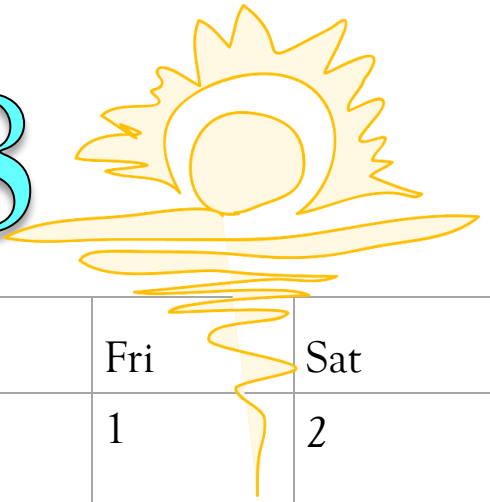
- 3 Bud Brouwer
- 10 Don Knutson
- 17 Joe Zylstra
- 24 Lou Kooistra

*Not Able to Serve When Scheduled?
Please call someone on the list and
make a plan to trade dates.
Thank you for your help!*

Would you like to serve in one of these areas, but have not been added to the list yet? Please call the church office at 360-733-6177 and let us know. It would be great to add you in! If your name is not on the birthday list for your month, please let us know that as well. Our desire is to include everyone who attends regularly, so please help us to keep our lists up-to-date.

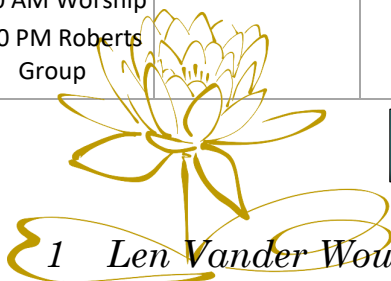
Thank you!

JUNE 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship Communion 11:00 AM Sunday School 6:00 PM T.A.G.	4	5	6 7:00 PM Elders, Deacons	7 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	8	9
10 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering	11	12	13 7:00 PM Council	14 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	15	16
17 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship	18	19	20	21 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	22	23
24 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Roberts Group	25	26 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	27	28 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	29	30

Happy Birthday !



1 Len Vander Woude
4 Bud Brouwer
13 Jolene Skovron
13 Mattea Ruiter

18 Darlys Recker
20 Wilma Kelln
20 Amariah Ruiter
23 Kylie Thrumer



27 Anne Geleynse
27 Lisa Oppenhuizen
29 Nancy Cook
30 Rockelle Ruiter