

# *The Monthly Heartbeat*

## **The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter**

July 2018 Issue

### **Are You a Good Listener? By Pastor Scott**



Listening has got to be one of the most difficult tasks to do well. I admit, that far too often I am thinking about how to respond to what someone is saying instead of truly giving all of my attention to listening to their words, perceiving their emotions, picking up on their body language and unspoken cues. Maybe you also feel that way.

But it is not listening to people that I want to discuss today, rather I want to explore what it means to be a good listener to God. Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Listening to the voice of our Lord can be difficult. We may long for it to be as easy for us as it was for Mary when she sat at the feet of Jesus and listened (Luke 10:39). Jesus was a real fleshly person, right in front of her. But it need not be impossible, and his voice need not be incomprehensible.

So how can we become good listeners to the voice of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us? There are a few preliminary things we can do to learn to recognize the voice of God:

**1** *read the word faithfully.* Reading the Bible every day, or multiple times a day in a systematic and complete way will teach us to recognize the kinds of things that are on God’s heart. We will learn to love justice, recognize sin, see what repentance looks like, and so forth. When we read the Word, we are gaining the vocabulary for talking with God.

**2** *Be still.* The Scriptures tell us, “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Far too often, our prayer life is a barrage of words directed towards the heavens, but learning to be a good listener requires silence. I have found that after reading the Word of God, a few minutes of silence preceded by words like, “Lord, show me how to apply this today,” are helpful.

**3** *Obey.* When God does show us an application, we must be diligent to obey in order that we don’t sear our consciences (1Timothy 4:2) or grieve the Holy Spirit within us (Ephesians 4:30).

These 3 simple steps are the groundwork for learning to hear the voice of God at other times in life. As we learn to practice the Word, silence and obedience we will grow in our ability to sense small promptings from God that are outside the scope of Scripture. For example, we may sense the need to go to the hospital at a certain time even though we don’t know anyone in the hospital at that moment, and upon going find that someone we know is waiting in the ER. Or, we may sense the need to call a person, and upon calling find out that they needed encouragement or prayer for a specific situation in their life.

It is common to question whether these non-scriptural promptings are really the voice of God or our own internal thoughts. One will never know until he or she compares the voice to the Written Word. If it isn’t in violation of the clear teaching of the Word, then heed the voice and see what things God may be leading you to do for his Kingdom. Clare De Graf has written a wonderfully inspirational and practical book about this called “**The 10-second-rule.**” In it, he urges us to take steps of obedience within 10 seconds of recognizing the prompting, because after 10 seconds we will start rationalizing or explaining away why we shouldn’t obey the voice in our head or heart. So, are you a good listener? It depends, as Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice...and they follow me.” The test for listening appears to be obedience. So, listen and do, and see what God is up to.



# Love INC Volunteer Opportunities

## Summer 2018

### INDIVIDUAL

1. **Love INC Moving Day!** We're moving offices and could use your helping hands! **Thursday July 26th 6pm-7pm and Friday July 27th at 10am-11:30am.** Email [Shannon@whatcomloveinc.org](mailto:Shannon@whatcomloveinc.org) to RSVP for volunteering.

2. **Graffiti Street Clean-up:** Please see Group opportunities for details.

3. **Call Center Phone Volunteers:** The Call Center is where people with needs call seeking assistance. We are looking for volunteers to answer the phones with a listening ear and a kind heart, record the need and pray with the caller. We will train you and you'll be serving on a team. Phone volunteers are needed weekly on Mon, Tues, Wed, or Thurs from 9am-1pm.

Next Steps: Please go to our website to complete a Volunteer form at [www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer). Also, please contact Cindy, the Program Coordinator: [office@whatcomloveinc.org](mailto:office@whatcomloveinc.org)

4. **Financial Coaching Team:** In our 1-on-1 Managing Your Money program you work life on life with people. This is an 11-week course that runs quarterly with summer breaks; fall quarter begins September 13th. Meetings are held on Thursday evenings 6:30-8pm at Bellingham Covenant Church. We are looking for people to serve as assistant coaches. We provide training support.

Next Steps: Please go to our website to complete a Volunteer form at [www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer). Also, please contact Joan, the Program Coordinator at [joanlotze@juno.com](mailto:joanlotze@juno.com).

5. **Share Your Skill:** Volunteer by sharing a skill or service or resources to local residents in need. The Clearinghouse call center will connect and mobilize you to serve local neighbors in need when they call in for help. This is an opportunity to tithe your talent for the Lord's use. See examples below of teams already developed of those using their time, talent and treasure to lovingly serve others.

#### **Drive Team: Transportation Volunteer**

Serve your neighbor in need by driving a client to a medical appointment. Would you be available to serve on call and as needed and during week day, daytime hours? We aim for two week notice for this service. Give us the best way of contacting you; we'll connect you with someone to bless. Next Steps: Please go to our website to complete a Volunteer form at [www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer).

#### **Build-It Team: Volunteers for small home construction jobs.**

Are you skilled in construction? We are currently networking a team of contractors and construction workers who are passionate about using their skill on local mission through Love INC. Would you be available to serve on call and as needed and during week day, daytime hours? Next Steps: Please go to our website to complete a Volunteer form at [www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer).

#### **Fix-It Team: Volunteers for household maintenance and repairs.**

Calling all handy-men or women! Are you skilled with home repairs? Would you be available to serve on call and as needed and during week day, daytime hours? Next Steps: Please go to our website to complete a Volunteer form at [www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer).

### GROUP

1. **Graffiti Street Clean-up:** We have two City Service Days scheduled for this summer. Great opportunity for ministry groups, small groups, men's or women's Bible studies or families to serve the City together. **Tuesday, July 17th 6-7:30pm** and Sunday, August 19th Afternoon. More details coming soon. Registration for these service projects will be posted on our website. Email [Shannon@whatcomloveinc.org](mailto:Shannon@whatcomloveinc.org) with interest or questions.

2. **Love INC Events Team** – Fall Fundraiser October 12th Friday Volunteers wanted!: Good for a group or individual. Do you like coordinating or helping at events? We're looking for volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. These key players help with all the behind-the-scenes coordinating of our big annual events. Next Steps: Please go to our website to complete a Volunteer form at [www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer](http://www.whatcomloveinc.org/volunteer).



## Seafarers' Mission

By Pastor John Van Hemert

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thankyou all for your prayers and help! Just before ascending to Heaven, our Savior gave His followers the mandate: "All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me. Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-20)

We thank our Lord for the opportunity to do exactly that. It is an open door with Seafarers in the gates of our seaports from all over the world.

### Praises and Prayers for the Salvation of the Lost

1. Give thanks that a Russian officer on an oil tanker was open to the Gospel and welcomed a Russian Bible as well as an English one to learn of the Lord in both languages.
2. Give thanks that we could welcome twenty Filipinos who came, sailing a month, with a load of aluminum ore from Australia. Services of the Word and Prayer were welcomed. Bibles and Christian literature were eagerly accepted with a lot of praise to the Lord.
3. Pray for them and their very distant families, for ten months a stretch. The last ship had no internet. Counselling care for stress and homesickness are readily accepted. If they are allowed off the ship, we take them shopping, which for them is a big deal, and for us a blessing.
4. a. Another associate, or two, to volunteer for ship visiting.  
b. Needed: Christian and good magazines, DVDs, jackets, hats, and funds for Bibles. These can be sent or dropped off at our office C/O Hope Project, Seafarers, 205 B.C. Avenue Lynden, WA 98264

# Whatcom Community News

**'I SING OF GOD' CONCERT COMING:** Mezzo-soprano Marija Bosnar and organist Michael Plagerman will present a concert titled "I Sing of God" on July 13 at First CRC. Enjoy song, poetry, and scripture in an environment of evening prayer. The concert is free with donations accepted. Bosnar is a masters student of opera performance at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Plagerman holds degrees in music from Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Notre Dame. He is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at Cornell University. For more information, check out the "I Sing of God" Facebook page or e-mail [thechurchorganist@gmail.com](mailto:thechurchorganist@gmail.com).

**BOOK OF RUTH AUDIO BIBLE STUDY:** Groundwork is offering a new audio Bible study called "Ruth: Surprised by God's Providence." Let the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz strengthen your faith to trust, obey, and actively receive God's provision. Sign-up for weekly e-mails and get the Bible study free. Visit [groundworkonline.com/studyruth](http://groundworkonline.com/studyruth).

**LUNCH FOR CHRISTIAN NON-PROFIT WORKERS:** Christian workers in non-profit organizations are invited to a lunch and soul care afternoon on July 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at Cedar Springs Retreat Center, 4700 Minaker Road, Sumas. In addition to lunch and opportunities to relax, there will be resources to guide you in rest and reflection. The cost is \$5 per person. Register at [www.cedarspringscrc.org/programs](http://www.cedarspringscrc.org/programs). For more information, call (360) 988-6674.

# Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month I'm featuring Bridger Ragland. Although he goes by the first name of Bridger, his first name is really simply J. His parents gave him his middle name of Bridger after Jim Bridger, one of the pioneers at the time of the Oregon Trail.

Bridger grew up at Anchor Point in Alaska. He is joined by his parents and two younger sisters. He attended school in Anchor Point and graduated from high school in Homer, Alaska, in 1999. He completed two years of undergraduate work at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. In 2001 he was overwhelmed with school, and he was done!

Bridger's first hourly job was in a retail lumber mill where he sold finished and rough-cut lumber and building supplies. His next job was as an armed guard for Loomis for a year. Then he joined first trade apprenticeship as a glazier for a window company, and he was employed there for five years. He worked on both residential and commercial projects. He became a journeyman teamster working at Fort Greely, Alaska building the missile field. Next, he joined the International Guard boot camp. He was on a football team, and he signed up for the military during the intermission of the game. He was with the Air National Guard for three years, but he took a voluntary withdrawal because there was little or no action, and his family didn't have insurance, and he needed to provide insurance for his family. This was an honorary discharge from the National Guard. He next became a civilian computer technician for the military.

When I asked him about his wife and family, he said that he was married to Miranda on September 4, 2009, in Alaska. She found him on Myspace on the computer, and the relationship developed into marriage. She previously had four children, and then they had one son together. The children are Cameron, age 19, Cydney, a daughter, age 17, Raylyn, a daughter, age 15, Paul, Jr., age 13, and then Jace, age 8. He has been married for about nine years. The family resides in Orange Park, Florida, but in order to support the family, Bridger had to look elsewhere for work. Miranda is a manager for the HOA Rec. areas for a large living complex. She's also a certified lifeguard and CPR instructor. He makes it home when he can, but he's doing his best to support the family with jobs out west.

Currently Bridger is working at Blue Star Welding on the Guide Meridian. He's a red iron erector and certified welder. He lives on the property owned by Mark Ruitter and Martin Feed through Mark's good grace. He helps out on the property to more or less help with expenses and earn his keep for the rent.

Bridger's friendship with Mark began online with Everquest 2 (EQ2), a fantasy game, where they were part of the same guild about seven years ago. They slowly grew into friends through their communication. Mark would offer him support and point him to places in the Bible where he could get answers. In 2016, he came to this area and worked for Mark for a couple months. He flew up from Florida and was employed by Mark from Feb. through April.

Last weekend Bridger went to visit his parents, who live in Arizona.

Bridger likes our church a lot. People are very welcoming, and don't seem to be judgmental. He likes the area, but please hold the rain. He has gotten himself involved in our church in various ways. A couple years ago, Tanya asked him if he wished to participate in the Easter play, which was to be performed for the Friendship group. Melissa drafted him to join the praise team, and with fear and trembling the first time, he managed that, and each time it gets a little easier. Then he was volunteered to lead one of the small groups for "The Story," and he shared with the church fellowship "his story."

We're so glad that Mark took the time to invest in this young man, and to assist him with jobs. He very much enjoys his visits with the Ruitter family and often enjoys a Sunday lunch with them. If you haven't met Bridger, take the time to introduce yourself to him. He's a very pleasant young man and often has a twinkle in his eye.



# Missional Marker: Culture of Godly Leadership

By Don Recker

The Missional Marker in focus in this article on the Vitality Pathway we're following at Hope in Christ Church is a culture of godly leadership. The associated text is Hebrews 13:7:

*Remember your leaders,  
those who spoke to you the word of God.  
Consider the outcome of their way of life,  
and imitate their faith.*

The massive Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible indicates that the word "leadership" does not occur, and is not addressed as a subject in the Bible! However, the Bible does speak of "leaders," mostly in the plural as in Hebrews 13:7, 17 & 24 in reference to "leaders" of the community. Founders of the community, who have died, are also among the leaders set up as examples of faith. These past "leaders" are those called to mind in Hebrews 13:7. Hope in Christ Church has been shaped and blessed by leaders who have gone before. What kind of leaders do we need today?

Our Missional Marker answers with one word, **godly**.

The word "leaders" is also used in the Bible of non-Christian leaders - officials, princes, military leaders – so, we need to distinguish between leaders in the community of believers and leaders in the communities of the world. When business, industry, government, and military communities seek leaders, they look for transactional leaders, people having the characteristics of a skilled manager. An analysis of the transactional leader, the subject of innumerable articles, books, and seminars, is beyond the interest of this article. Transactional leaders are task- accomplishment oriented. Managerial skill is a great and necessary gift in the body of Christ, but is not the primary quality of a "godly" leader. Much more basic than transactional leaders, godly leaders must be...

Transformative leaders. A transformative leader might not have well-developed managerial skills, and so will turn, defer to, and enable those with managerial gifts when there is a task to be accomplished! A transformative leader is more a motivator, equipper, encourager, and example to others than task manager. Thus, when the Bible talks about godly leaders, it speaks of character traits of a godly leader - several in number, but well summarized in the fruits of the Spirit –

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...*  
(Galatians 5:22, 23)

First and foremost, a godly leader is a person **led** by the Spirit of God.

*...All who are led by the Spirit of God  
are sons of God.*  
(Rom. 8:14)

That is the implicit and non-negotiable trait of a godly leader.

*Lord Jesus, as you have in our past, so continue to bless us with godly leaders,  
men and women led by the Spirit of God.*

# Items of Interest from June's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

## Council Welcomed New Members:

Elders: Ida Richards, Evelyn Kooistra

Deacons: Elaine Snapper, Tena Vanderpol

**Family Promise of Whatcom County:** Hope in Christ Church will provide support at First Christian Church. There was a good turnout from Hope in Christ Church at the June 12th training, with approximately 24 people in attendance.

The dates of our assistance are July 8, 2018, September 2, 2018, February 10, 2019 and March 10, 2019. Ali Laninga and Lorraine Brouwer are the Hope in Christ Church contacts.

**Ministry Center Plans:** Pastor Scott is facilitating plans and will write contracts. Love INC and Oikos Church have committed to renting office space. Others are still considering.

**Vitality Team:** A new team will potentially be formed in the fall, with Council possibly providing input for the team's vision. Vitality team meets Thursday, June 21st.

**Fall Start-Up Schedule:** *The Story* will resume on September 9, with Chapter 22. Sunday school will start then also. Council discussed options about what should follow *The Story*.

## July Potluck

The Hospitality Team is planning a potluck lunch to take place on Sunday, July 29th. Please save the date on your calendar, and check in the bulletin closer to that date for more information. Everyone is invited to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there!

The potluck is at the end of July, which is also the time to start planning for fall and winter Sunday school and study topics. Council is already considering options, and would like to share a few with you at the potluck. They look forward to having food, fellowship, and the time to share some ideas with you.

## Giving in May 2018

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 6363	\$ 21,177
General Fund Offerings	\$17,244	\$120,480
Rent / Utilities Income	686	13,009
Total Undesignated Income	17,930	133,489
General Fund Expenses	(21,253)	(109,458)
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (3,323)</u>	<u>\$ 24,031</u>
Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 224,758
Year-to-Date Budget for 6 months		\$ 112,379
Total Undesignated Income		133,489
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 21,110</u>

### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 17,500

## Deacons Digest

By Elaine Snapper

At the meeting on Wed., June 6, 2018, the two newly elected deacons, Tena and Elaine, were welcomed to the group. Dan Obbink briefly explained to all of the deacons how to navigate around the monthly reports, etc. He also presented three forms for recording monthly donations. Connie and Faye will choose the one they prefer.

Our church will be assisting with Family Promise from July 8 – 15. Faith CRC had given funds to our church and designated the funds for local outreach. Some of these funds will be used to purchase lunch supplies for the function.

Terry and Lisa reported on the “basket” they put together for the Lighthouse Mission fundraiser. They also attended the Love, Inc. Annual Vision Meeting.

A donation was given for airfare for a “vision trip” with ICR from June 16 - 21, 2018.

Diaconal duties were assigned as follows:

Chair: Terry Vander Woude

Special Events: Lisa DeSalvo

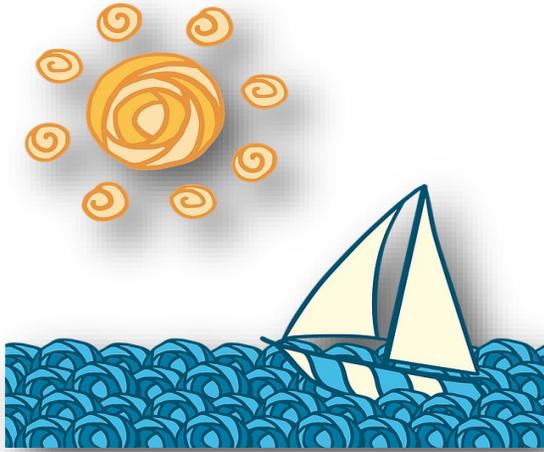
Secretary: Rockelle Ruiter

Treasurer: Tena Vanderpol

Heartbeat/Bulletin Communication: Elaine Snapper

It was approved to have signage created for our church building so we are more visible to visitors who look for our worship center. The deacons are ready to cheerfully accept donations towards the signs. The cost was estimated to be \$6,800.

Because of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, the next deacons meeting will be Wed., July 11, at 6:00 p.m.



# July 2018

## Greeters Schedule

- 1 Deloris Perry, Denise Doezema
- 8 Lanny & Christine Speyer
- 15 Lou & Ev Kooistra
- 22 Darryl & Gloria Groothuis
- 29 David & Ida Richards, Junior Johnson

## Cookie Schedule

- 1 Lorraine Brouwer, Lisa DeSalvo, Faye Hop
- 8 Connie Knutson, Melissa Koning, Marilyn Kaiser
- 15 Pat Bosman, Helen Bowman, Denise Doezema
- 22 Avis Kaemingk, Ev Laninga, Ali Laninga
- 29 Lisa Oppenhuizen, Deloris Perry, Tanya Obbink

## Serving Assistants

- 1 Michal, AnaMaria, Grace
- 8 Caleb, Kylie, Chantel
- 15 Micah, Amariah, Zeke
- 22 Abee, Faith, Maggie
- 29 AnaMaria, Clara, Micah

## Prayer Room

- 1 Terry Vander Woude
- 8 Jay Kaemingk
- 15 Ev Kooistra
- 22 Don Vanderpol
- 29 Chuck Dean

## Offering Schedule

- 1 Kingdom Advancement
- 8 Kingdom Advancement
- 15 Outreach
- 22 Kingdom Advancement
- 29 Benevolence

## Ushering Schedule

- 1 Elaine Snapper, Len Vander Woude
- 8 Ken Wick, Bud Brouwer
- 15 Deloris Perry, Helen Bowman
- 22 Don Knutson, Joe Pruitt
- 29 Joe & Barb Zylstra

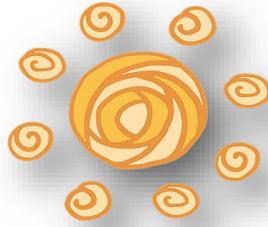
## Foyer Monitor

- 1 Len Vander Woude
- 8 Bud Brouwer
- 15 Mike Button
- 22 Don Knutson
- 29 Joe Zylstra

*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.

# July



# 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:15 AM Prayer  9:30 AM Communion & Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Birch Bay Camping July 5-8	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering Family Promise Week July 8-15	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Elders, Deacons 7:00 PM Council Christie Miller Youth Theater July 9-21	<b>12</b> 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship Christie Miller Youth Theater July 9-21	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00-7:30 PM Graffiti Clean-up Christie Miller Youth Theater July 9-21	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Roberts Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Worship Planning Team	<b>26</b> 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship Potluck Lunch	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## Happy Birthday !

5 Marlene Butenschoesn  
 8 Mike Cunningham  
 9 Ken Wick  
 12 Jay Kaemingk

15 Donna VanBeek  
 15 Karen Funk  
 15 Michal Ruiter  
 16 Evan Boer  
 17 Chuck Dean

19 Tena Vanderpol  
 29 Keith Sentkowski  
 29 Jeanette McConnaughey  
 31 Winnie Konn