



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

Volume 23 FEBRUARY 2016 Issue 2

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

Praying for those you love

By Pastor Scott

Have you ever wondered how to pray for parents, children, friends, and pastors? Does it feel like you repeat the same things day after day and you are starting to sound like a worn out song stuck in constantly repeating loop? Here are seven things (one for each day of the week) that can be prayed for those you love and each can be expanded in a variety of ways.



Pray for Hearts that are drawn into a love relationship with Christ. Ask the Lord to deepen your loved one's appreciation for Jesus as the Son of God, fully human and fully divine. Ask that they have a greater awareness of the need for a Savior. Implore God to grow the desire to relate to Him in Christ. Ask the Lord to put a desire in them to pray and an earnest need to hear the voice of the Lord respond to their prayers. (see 2Cor. 13:14)

Pray for a growing ability to discern the Voice of the Lord. Ask God to sharpen the sense of discernment between our own inner voice, the voice of the world and the devil and the true voice of the Good Shepherd. Jesus says that, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27). Pray for a growing ability to hear God and a growing desire to make time in the busyness of life to be still and know that God is God. (see Hos. 14:9, 1Cor. 2:14, Phil. 1:10)

Pray for a deep love of the Word of God to permeate all of life. Closely tied to the ability to discern the voice of the Lord is an increasing love of the Word of God. Ask God to put within each of your loved ones a need for the Word of God. Ask him to lead each person

on your heart into a study of the Scriptures this week that would transform them and change them. Pray that the Spirit reminds them of Biblical truth when it is needed and when it will keep them from sin. Pray for a mind able and willing to memorize the living Word of God. Ask for a spirit within them that is quick to repent at violations of the Word and is eager to walk in conformity to the will of God as revealed in the Bible. (see Ps. 119, 2Tim. 3:16-17)

Pray that God would use them for good. There are so many things in this world that seek to use people for their own ends, simply to discard them on the other end. Pray that God will use them for Good and to affect holiness in our world. Ask God to allow them to serve others, to spread joy and peace, to help someone in need, to give sacrificially and generously. (Gen. 51:20, Ps. 34:14, Lk. 6:35)

Pray for a freedom from worry and anxiety. Stress abounds in our modern, western world. People fret and agonize over financial concerns, employment concerns and relational concerns. Ask God to free them from worry and to grant them the peace that passes understanding. Beseech the Lord for the blessing of a life that trusts Him, even in the trials, and knows that the Loving, Sovereign Hand of God is upon them for good and not for harm. (see 1Pt. 5:7, Ps. 94:19)

Pray for growth in the fruit of the Spirit. We are told in Scripture that the fruit of a life touched and indwelt by the Spirit of God is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There isn't a person alive who couldn't benefit from an increasing ability to practice each of these virtues. Ask God to bear the fruit of regeneration in the lives of your loved ones. Reflect on specific areas of life where these virtues would serve others. (see Gal. 5:22-23, 1Cor. 13:4-6)

....continued on page two

Items of Interest from January's Council Meeting

By Brian Koning

Reports:

- a. Membership Clerk Mark Ruitter reported two membership transfers:
Gord and Cheryl Terpstra are transferring their membership to Faith Community CRC in Mt Vernon.
Mary Kudsk is transferring her membership to 1st CRC in Lynden.
- b. Pulpit Supply: Jason Hubbard will be preaching the last Sunday of January.
- c. Rental Team: A new couple will be moving in to the rental house. They are incoming staff at the LOWPC.

Old Business:

- a) Church Vitality Renewal Fri Jan 15th dinner at 5:30. Sat Jan 16th 8-Noon – Potluck Fri night Breakfast Sat; 57 Adults signed up
- b) Church Web presence – New look and Facebook Page – Mike has asked Megan Speyer to help with updates / Facebook presence
- c) We discussed the Mission project Eastern Washington summer 2016. Terry and Faye are spearheading this effort (thanks!), and will have more information in February.
- d) New Phone system progress report: Mike reported that the new IP phones are in, and working well.

New Business:

- a) David reported that next month council will have our annual Mutual Accountability and Encouragement (aka mutual censure).
- b) Over the next month, we will begin to consider Elder and Deacon Nominations.
- c) Great thanks to Alice Brakke for her services as a nurse to our congregants!

Open Floor

We discussed how big of a blessing the Prayer Partner Program has been. Thanks to all involved in forming great relationships with the kids in our church!

Up Coming Events:

Vitality Program (First Session VERITAS) Fri evening 1/15 and Sat morning 1/16
Deacons and Elders Meeting Wednesday 2/3 at 7:00 PM
Council Meeting – Wednesday 2/10 at 7:00 PM
Prayer Meeting – 2/21 during Sunday School time

Praying for those you love...cont. from page one

Pray for growth in holiness, righteousness and purity. Our God is a consuming fire. He is Holy and commands us to be holy too. Ask the Lord to increasingly separate the ones you love from everything that ensnares and keeps them from living in holiness, righteousness and purity. Ask him to place a desire within them, as well as empowering them, to flee the sins which so easily entangle. Ask the Lord for eyes to see the way out of each temptation and to make use of the exit door quickly and speedily. (see Lev. 11:44, 19:2, 20:26, Eph. 1:4. 1Pt. 1:15)

All seven of these items are evangelistic and discipleship oriented. Each of them can be prayed for our loved ones who are not walking with Christ by asking God to work in them the initial work of Grace, which saves. But these prayers are also discipleship oriented and can be prayed for those who have been walking with the Lord for years or decades, for we each need an increase in our conformity to the life of Christ. May these prayers, informed by the Scriptures, encourage your own soul and transform the lives of those for whom you pray.

The Bible as a letter

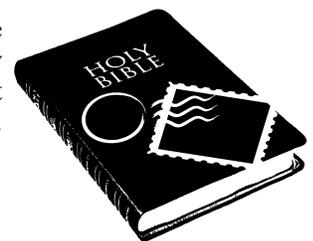
Søren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it."

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.

Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!



THE BLESSING OF SERVING

By David Richards, Council President

I would like to thank each of you who made the time to participate in our first VITALITY session. In our busy lives it is not always easy to find the time to give to a Friday night and Saturday morning to come to church for a seminar. As we met, we listened to Pastor Don Robinson speak about pruning and feeding to grow. Later as we each took the opportunity to “map” where we felt we are as a church, we started a process to define who we are and where we want to be. We need to reach out to those who could not be with us at the workshop. We will show them a DVD on Veritas covering the seminars main points. Once again I thank each of you, it was not easy to mark your X and share your feelings.

As we continue to discuss the Vitality process we also move on in the matters of church at the speed of church, two meetings a month. Your Council will start the process of submitting names for Deacon and Elder. We will be seeking willing members to replace Elders Brian Konig / Mark Ruiter and Deacons Christine Speyer / Connie Knutsen. I would ask each of you to start praying now (no not praying that we would not seek your permission to let your name stand for drawing of lots) but praying for God to show you His plan for you and seeking His guidance.

Serving on Council is a blessing, and yes it is also hard work. It can be very fulfilling and rewarding. Speak with an Elder or Deacon about the rewards. The past few months have been challenging for me but they have also rewarded me with the blessing of serving each of you to the best of my ability with God’s help. I have grown in my faith and strengthened friendships.

Recently at Council we have been reading a Devotional on Being Deacons. We are all Deacons in one way or another as we care for each other in our flock. One recent portion of the book spoke to the blessing of serving/ helping one another. When we serve one another, be it in time, help, lending an ear, praying for each other or tithing, we create a three way blessing:

- 1) **The need is met, blessing the recipient.**
- 2) **Good is done, blessing the donor.**
- 3) **Christ is served, blessing the Church and witnessing to the world.**

Taken from “The Deacons Handbook, A Manual of Stewardship”,

by Berghoef and De Koster.

Please continue to pray for your council and ask God to show us His will for Hope in Christ Church. Prayerfully consider if your Council Member approaches you with a letter of call that you can meet a need (first blessing), do

good (receiving a blessing yourself) and Serving Christ (blessing the Church and witnessing to the congregation). A large piece of our vitality is serving one another; let God have the opportunity to choose you.

Teachers Needed for Sunday School Program

By Diane Button

Teachers are still needed for Sunday school for the following dates:

K-1st grade- March 6,13,20, April 3,10,17

2nd & 3rd grade- April 3,10,17

These kids would be very disappointed if there is no one to teach them during these dates, so please let Diane Button know ASAP if you would be willing to teach.

Here's the schedule I have for the rest of the year, with the teachers that did sign up.

2nd & 3rd: March 6, 13,20 - Scott Roberts

4th & 5th: March 6,13,20, April 3,10,17- Tena Vanderpol

K-1st: April 24, May 1,8,15,22,29- Diane Button

2nd & 3rd: April 24, May 1,8,15,22,29- Ida Richards

4th & 5th: April 24, May 1,8,15,22,29- Herm & Ali Laninga

Congratulations to Kyle Sentkowski!

From the Tuesday, Jan. 26 Herald (p.2b):

Blaine Junior kicker/punter Kyle Sentkowski will leave this weekend to represent the U.S. in the International Bowl. Sentkowski was one of 58 high school football players nation-wide selected to play on the U-18 national team, which will play Canada on Feb. 3 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. The game will be streamed online on ESPN3. Sentkowski booted 28 extra points last fall for the Blaine Borderites and had a 30 yard field goal in week 4 against Sehome.

Deacon's Digest

By Ali Laninga

The Deacons would like to thank Alice Brakke for her service to our congregation as Parish Nurse. She ministers to folks who need some extra support following a medical event or illness. Her services are much appreciated. Thanks Alice!!

Spring is just around the corner and that means it's almost time for another Hymn Sing. Stay posted for a date some time in April.

The Council has been reading a book together entitled "The Deacons Handbook." In our last reading the authors state that doing good and serving others is not optional for Christians. So, when we serve and meet the needs of others, the authors mention three blessings that are achieved:

1. The need is met, blessing the recipient
2. Good is done, blessing the donor.
3. Christ is served, blessing the Church, and witnessing to the world.

Giving in December 2015

	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 2,224	\$ 2,224
General Fund Offerings	\$20,954	\$ 20,954
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>1,265</u>	<u>1,265</u>
Total Undesignated Income	22,219	22,219
General Fund Expenses	<u>(19,188)</u>	<u>(19,188)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 3,031</u>	<u>\$ 3,031</u>
Total 2015 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 1 month		\$ 16,805
Total Undesignated Income		<u>22,219</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 5,515</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 22,500
 CRC: \$ -0- paid off August 2015



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

GO FOR A FEW DAYS, GO FOR A WEEK OR FOR THE ENTIRE TIME:

JUNE 11 - JUNE 26 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 2015 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. Depending on the facility; bunk beds and cots are available (you may want to or bring a single air mattress for comfort). Showers, restrooms and a kitchen is available for the groups to prepare their own meals. Grocery store is nearby.

COST: Range may vary from NO Charge to \$25.00 per person/per night.

WHAT TO BRING: Volunteers must bring their own bedding/sleeping bags, towels & toiletries, pillows.

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

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

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

Upcoming Interfaith Coalition Events

Mark your calendar! Interfaith Coalition has two wonderful ways for our congregation to be involved with the work of providing homes, shelter and hope for our neighbors in need.

Interfaith Choir Festival

Enjoy a concert of spiritual music by attending the Interfaith Coalition Choir Festival on **Sunday, February 21 at 3:30 p.m.** Individual choirs (including our church choir!) perform a song from their faith tradition, then join together in two songs with a combined choir of over 200 voices. The combined choir will sing two selections: *Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace* and *All Lifted Hearts*. *All Lifted Hearts* is a beautiful melody interspersed with spoken lines on the subject of the golden rule from different faiths, making a powerful statement about working together for peace.

Individual singers are invited to participate in the combined choir. Please contact Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983 if you are interested in singing. An offering to benefit Interfaith Coalition programs, will be gratefully accepted.

Hope is on the Way! Save the Date for the Interfaith Hope Auction!

Mark your calendar: Interfaith's 25th Annual Hope Auction happens on **Saturday, March 19th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** The auction will again take place at the newly-named Four Points by Sheraton (formerly Best Western Lakeway Inn, 714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham).

Whatcom County's friendliest auction fundraiser features fellowship, inspiration, hope and lively bidding on great auction items. Please join us as we continue in our work of transforming struggling lives. You can help in these ways:

Do you have an auction item to donate? A service you offer, your own artwork, gift certificate, tickets to popular sporting events, vacation home getaway, ...let your imagination soar and think of what you might be able to donate, and get in touch with us!

Buy tickets to the auction. Tickets are \$50 each, includes dinner.

Become a business sponsor or ask your favorite businesses or employers to support Interfaith with a dedicated donation.

We make a difference in the lives of homeless families, men and women. Partner with us by attending Hope Auction and lifting up our brothers and sisters! To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please contact your congregation's board member, or Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983 or through the website: www.interfaithcoalition.org

Beloved lyrics

At a women's retreat in Arizona, the leader discussed the subject of passing faith to the next generation. She divided the women into groups of five and asked each group to choose and then sing a cherished hymn. The women were surprised to hear an overwhelming favorite: the Sunday school standard "Jesus Loves Me."

Most of us probably can sing the first and last verses of that beloved song. But do you know the other verses? Here are the lyrics:

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."
(Refrain)

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.
(Refrain)

Lent begins

On Ash Wednesday, February 10, Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.

One might go on a spiritual retreat, for example, spending time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian. During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

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

One of the highlights of my work is visiting families in our churches. I try to make it into the homes of each family every 6 months. I don't have an agenda other than to see how life is going. I spend about 2 hours drinking coffee, talking, listening and praying with each household. Last Saturday, I was in the home of Victor and Francisca. They have been attending our Amor Viviente Church regularly for about 6 months. Their children have been coming to our church via our church van for over 8 years. These children are some of the best behave kids I know. Miguel, the oldest, is 18 and about to graduate from high school and enter the National Guard. Miguel also collects the offering in our church and helps count the money. "It was the love that you showed our children that initially brought us to the church. Then we realized that you really teach the Bible also." As I stood to pray for the family, Victor called all the kids who were outside in and we held hands and prayed in a circle. God is doing amazing work in our Amor Viviente Church. Nearly every week our church is full.

I cannot count the amount of times that I encounter prisoners in the Whatcom County Jail, who have no desire to speak with a chaplain, but they talk with me. I work on the premise that everybody has a huge hole in their heart and are seeking Jesus even though they don't know it. Recently, I encountered Mickey a burly, bearded, 42 year old, drug addict, with white supremacist tattoos. Mickey told me that when he was younger, he belonged to the movement. I told him about the Christian based Bridges of Hope transitional house we have in Lynden. He took an application and told me that he would fill it out. A couple of days later, Mickey called from the jail and told me he was out. We made an agreement for him to call me the next day for an interview. He never did. People like Mickey are so fragile that it is practically impossible to keep them clean even for 24 hours. I still pray for Mickey. I hurt for people like Mickey.

Herman was baptized in our Amor Viviente Church about 4 years ago along with his daughter. I had fished Herman out of jail. Not long after his baptism, he quit going to church. I let him go after visiting him several times. Monday, there he was waiting for me in the jail. I didn't want to shame him. I told him "let's start again." He agreed. He took a Bible and a Daily Bread. Pray for Herman.

Preaching Series:

2/7 Rom 12:1-8 Sacrificial and Generous Living and Giving

2/14 Acts 8 Intentional Evangelism

2/21 Exodus 34:4-7 Compassion, Mercy and Justice are rooted in God

2/28 Mt 28:18-20, Book of Acts, Global Perspective and Engagement

Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

2/7 Joe and Barb Zylstra

2/14 Don and Tena Vanderpol

2/21 Herm and Ali Laninga

2/28 Dale and Deloris Perry

Nursery Schedule

2/7 Caroline Boenig, Rosa McAlister

2/14 Terry VanderWoude, Connie Knutson

2/21 Arlene Veenstra, Tena Vanderpol

2/28 Tricia Bravener, Pat Bosman

Coffee/Snack Schedule

2/7 Arlene Veenstra, Barb Zylstra

2/14 Jenn Boer, Pat Bosman

2/21 Helen Bowman, Alice Brakke

2/28 Tricia Bravener, Lorraine Brouwer

Prayer Room

2/7 Del Bosman

2/14 Ali Laninga

2/21 Evelyn Kooistra

2/28 Terry Vander Woude

Sunday School Schedule

2/7 Ida Richards, Diane Button, Mike Boer

2/14 Ida Richards, Diane Button, Mike Boer

2/21 Ida Richards, Diane Button, Mike Boer

2/28 Ida Richards, Diane Button, Mike Boer

Offering Schedule

2/7 General Fund

2/14 General Fund

2/21 Outreach Fund

2/28 General Fund

Ushering Schedule

2/7 Len Vander Woude and Don Knutson

2/14 Helen Bowman and Lou Kooistra

2/21 Dale and Deloris Perry

2/28 Bud Brouwer and Joe Pruitt

Children & Worship Schedule

2/7 Ida Richards and Amber Obbink

2/14 Bekah Roberts and Megan Speyer

2/21 Dan Obbink and Kylie Thramer

2/28 Rosa McAlister and Ali Laninga

Congregational Birthdays For February

08 Brian Koning
08 Joanne Schultz
11 Phil Skovron
13 Aleya Cunningham
15 Jessie Figenbaum
17 Faye Hop
17 Ida Richards
19 Tanya Obbink
20 Josiah Cunningham
26 Jen Roberts



If you are a new attendee, please let the office know when your birth date is so we can add you to the list. If we missed you in January or February, Happy Birthday!

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:30 GEMS Mtg	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 10am Women's Study Grp 10 Men's Grp 7pm Elders 7pm Deacons	<i>4</i> 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	<i>5</i> <i>5:30pm GEMS Baked Potato Bar and Bunko</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:30 Service 6:00pm TAG	<i>8</i> 7pm Friendship	<i>9</i> 7pm Women's Study Grp	<i>10</i> 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp 7pm Council Mtg <i>Lent begins</i>	<i>11</i> 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:30 Service 4:30 Scott's Grp 7pm Laninga Grp	<i>15</i> 6:30 GEMS Mtg	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp	<i>18</i> 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:30 Service 11 Sunday Schl and prayer time	<i>22</i> 7pm Friendship	<i>23</i> 7pm Women's Study Grp	<i>24</i> 10am Women's Study Grp 10am Men's Grp	<i>25</i> 6:30am Men's Grp 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Men's Grp	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:30 Service 11 Sunday Schl 4:30 Scott's Grp 7pm Laninga Grp	<i>29</i>					