



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016 Issue 10

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

Working our Communication Muscles – The Direct

By Pastor Scott

We all have muscles. Some of us have bigger muscles; and some of us have smaller muscles. I have often been envious of those with giant arms and thick chests. My body just didn't seem to be able to grow muscles the same way other guys could. That is, until I started going to a gym that had a trainer who knew what to have me work on in order to strengthen those parts of my physique that were limiting me from developing to my full potential.

Though we might not realize it, our communication styles are more akin to muscles than we realize. Though we may be strong in some areas, we likely have weak communication skills in other areas and these weak muscles are keeping us from reaching our full potential as Disciples of Christ, called to take the Gospel to the Nations, or maybe just our next-door neighbor, co-worker, friend, spouse or child. A few weekends ago, Tena Crosby of Fast Track Communication did a marvelous job of reminding us that the gospel requires us to grow in our ability to communicate with others as an act of love for them. If my weaknesses are hindering my brother or sister, then it is better for me to get stronger where I am weak than it is to cause another to stumble (Luke 17:2). The responsibility rests with each of us, not with the other person to change.

My hope over the next few heartbeat articles is to remind us of the strengths and weaknesses of each muscle, to show an example of where Christ exhibited the muscle, and to give a few tips on how we might be able to develop this muscle, if it is not well developed in our life.

The Direct Muscle is the muscle that values truth and

simplicity. Directs want to know what you are thinking right now. This muscle speaks things quickly and is able to press into difficult situations without taking it personally. That said, the weakness of the direct muscle is that it can often hurt people unknowingly. They wouldn't take the words personally, so why do others? Directs often speak and then think, for they process things externally. This can be good when it comes to calling the Elephant in the Room but it can be hard when the words that spew out hurt another's feelings. But there are times when feelings must take a back seat so that the truth is declared.

I believe that Jesus was the perfect direct communicator. That said, he was also the perfect Narrative, Empathetic and Logical communicator as well. His Communication Muscles were aptly developed, balanced and he seemed to know just what needed to be said in any given situation. So where do we see Jesus' direct muscle being exercised? Consider his interactions with the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matthew 23. In this long discourse, Jesus calls it like it is. He condemns the religious hypocrites no less than 7 times in a matter of a few moments. He calls them "Snakes," "Vipers" and essentially tells them they are going to hell if they don't change (v33).

Was Jesus out of line? Was he simply being rude, as many think the exercise of the Direct Muscle is? Many of us would be appalled at such words being directed towards us, but it was the right thing to say at the right time, for Jesus was the perfect, sinless sacrifice. If it were the wrong thing, or the wrong time, then he would have sinned. But he didn't. Jesus knew that the time at hand wasn't a time for telling a story, though he told many stories in his life. He knew it wasn't a time to present a well thought logical progression, to try and convince his hearers of their sin. And he wasn't trying to figure out how to

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Items of Interest from September's Council Meeting

By Mike Boer

Reports:

The elders gave praise that Carolyn Gobel had met with them and will be welcomed in to our membership on September 25.

The Deacons will be having a hymn sing in our church on October 16. Mitchell and Rochelle Senti will be leading the music. Donuts and hot cider will be served following the singing.

The Christian school that will be removing the three-piece portable has received approval from the City of Ferndale. They are proceeding with all necessary permits and will soon be removing the portables from our grounds.

The parking lot needs to be re-sealed and the Building and Maintenance Team was asked to obtain some bids on performing this much needed maintenance.

Old Business:

A conference has been scheduled for November 19 with the Anacortes and Oak Harbor CR churches to continue with the Church Vitality Renewal. Our church will not be able to host this event as this is the weekend of the Holiday Bazaar. Scott will be contacting the groups to discuss date/location. Council and team leaders will be asked to attend this meeting.

TAG: David, Darlys and Rebecca are working to come up with topics, etc. More members are welcome to join them.

The sandwich signs were picked up and will now be displayed on Sundays and non-Sunday events.

The renovation of the Admin. Building was discussed. It was decided that it is a necessary remodel and Mike will bring his floor plan designs to the next council meeting.

Envision Ministry will start meeting at Hope in Christ church on the second Sundays of the month, beginning in January.

The church has received a donation to purchase an AED (an automatic defibrillator). The council approved the purchase of the item.

Dan Obbink is working on the proposed 2017 budget. Team members have been asked to submit their budget request to Dan prior to October 1. The pre-budget meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 26 at 7pm.

New Business:

The couple currently in the Ministry House will be moving out at the end of September. Christy Tucker, who is also residing there, will be moving out in November. An older couple and their friend will be moving in. They are also involved with the Prayer Center.

A request was received to help the Friendship Program with snacks. It was decided to increase their budget and the church secretary will purchase supplies for the program, rather than asking for donations from families or from the current teachers.

Since we do not have two adults in each Sunday school classroom, it was decided that the elders and deacons would take turns being present outside the classrooms on Sunday mornings.

GEMS Update

The GEMS girls will be having their sleep-over in the church sanctuary on October 14. The girls love this fun-filled evening as they play games, have treats, stay up late and sleep in the sanctuary. Breakfast is served on Saturday morning to the girls prior to their leaving for home.

Join the GEMS on October 21 for their annual evening of dessert and followed by the rousing game of Bunko. Not sure what Bunko is? Come and see! At least come and have dessert with the girls and their counselors. Donations of money towards their activities would be appreciated. Look for more information on this activity in the upcoming bulletins.



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say it so that these men's feelings weren't hurt. No, this was a time for point blank, call it like it is, rapid fire declaration of truth. Hypocrisy is never to be lightly tolerated or washed over. I must be called out.

So how can we develop this muscle if it is weak? Consider this question: Do I love this person enough to tell them that their sin must stop? If your answer is yes, then pray for the courage and the gumption to call it like it is. Maybe you need to write our your thoughts and simply read them to the other so that the words don't get sugar coated or the meaning missed in some hints. Maybe that seems like too big of a step, but you know that there are people in your life who appreciate short, succinct, direct communication. Instead of asking them if they would like to do something that you want to do, simply declare your desire – the restaurant you want to eat at, the movie you want to see or the chore you want them to do. For the directs in your life, this will be a breath of fresh air, and for the sinners in your life, this may be the shock that God uses to bring them back to the straight and narrow way of Salvation.

Ethiopian Well

By Pastor Scott

Many have asked about the status of the Ethiopian Well Project that we raised funds for a few years ago. On Tuesday morning, I spoke with John Shane of NHOM, the group that oversees the orphan ministry we supported in Tissibay, Ethiopia. John returned from Ethiopia last week with some very sobering news about the state of the government in the area. As in many tribal styles of government, a small tribe controls the area and recently launched attacks on the two largest tribes in the area, the Oromo and Amhara. This has caused the government to close down, all communications are down and John said that he was the only guest in the hotel where he was staying. The building has all its walls up, but no roof has been put on. Mostly this is a strategic move. John fears that if they put a roof on without the government giving them more kids, that the government will seize the compound and make it their own. So he is waiting for them to allocate the extra children to the orphanage, at which point he will put the roof on and complete the construction, including the installation of the well. After hearing about the unrest and understanding a little about African politics, I would agree with his assessment of the situation and though it is hard for us to understand, I believe this is a prudent decision. So where is the money? Of the \$15k we donated, \$13k is in a bank account in Ethiopia and is still safe and drawing interest. Again this may

make us frustrated, and certainly isn't what we intended to happen with the money when we raised it, but our God is sovereign and he looks at the heart not the effect. Thanks for having big hearts, for giving generously and for continuing to pray for God to move in this very hard area of Ethiopia.

ActsNow Conference, Nov 5

By Pastor Scott

Want to support our brothers and sisters in the persecuted church? Do you want to learn more about what it is like to be a Christian in places like Morocco, Egypt, Pakistan and other persecuted places? Then register for the ActsNow conference. It will be held on Nov 5 at our church from 10-3. Lunch is provided as part of the conference as well as hearing from a variety of great brothers and sisters from around the globe. The \$50 registration fee makes it possible to bring all the speakers in, as well as providing some support for the work of ICR which seeks to plant churches in the hardest places on earth. Please set this day aside and lets try to pack out our church by inviting others who would benefit from the moving stories of our brothers and sisters.

For more information, visit <http://christianresponse.org/event/actsnow-conference/>

Congregational Birthdays For October

1 Del Bosman
2 Jean VanHemert
4 Mike Boer
4 Solly McAlister
5 Alice Brakke
6 Bekah Roberts
11 Don Vanderpol
17 Diane Button
27 Pat Bosman
29 Carmen Larson
31 Joe Pruitt



Deacon's Digest

By Terry Vander Woude

The deacons are once again sponsoring a hymn sing in our church. The event is scheduled for October 16 from 6pm to approximately 7pm. Mitchell and Rochelle Senti have agreed to lead us in rousing hymn songs. The deacons will be serving hot apple cider and donuts following the singing. Plan to join us for a fun and lively evening of music and singing. We will be taking a love offering for Envision Mission.

Providing Warmth to Neighbors in Need

Interfaith Coalition's annual winter coat drive provides warm outerwear for everyone from babies to seniors. Please bring clean, gently used or new winter coats, gloves, scarves and hats to worship services through October 16. Interfaith will distribute these to people in four locations across Whatcom County. If you are a knitter, handmade hats and scarves are also cherished. For many of our neighbors, this program means they won't need to spend limited income on a winter coat, or do without. Thank you for sharing the warmth!

Giving in August 2016

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Total Designated Income:	\$ 4,537	\$ 17,786
General Fund Offerings	\$ 22,110	\$143,449
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>4,360</u>	<u>23,102</u>
Total Undesignated Income	26,470	166,551
General Fund Expenses	<u>(18,437)</u>	<u>(150,753)</u>
Income Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 8,033</u>	<u>\$ 15,798</u>
Total 2016 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 9 months		\$ 151,244
Total Undesignated Income		<u>166,551</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 15,307</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 22,500

A pre-budget meeting will be held in the church foyer on October 26 at 7pm to approximately 8pm. At this time the deacons will be sharing the proposed 2017 budget, which begins with December 2016. Plan to join your council and give your input as to how your church should spend the gifts given to us by God.

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report of September 2016

by Joe Strong

(NWHM, 701 W. Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273)

"Pablo Martínez, te bautizo en el nombre de Padre, de Hijo y el Espíritu Santo." As Pablo came up out of the water, the guitar started up and nearly 100 people on shore sang "Wash me, wash me in the blood of the Lamb". The music floated out over the waters of Lake Padden. Then four other young people along with Pablo, gave their testimonies and professed their faith of what Jesus meant to them. What a great day!! These 5 young people have been in our Sunday School program for many years. The parents of these 5 young people all came into our church through sending their children to Sunday School. In the last 3 weeks, I have heard a couple of new people attending our church say, they have come because we have such a good Sunday School program. Thank you Jesus for humble but faithful people who dedicate their time to advancing your kingdom. Our Sunday School is in English and our teacher are recruited out of our Lynden churches.

I have so much work that there is no way I can possibly do it all. I often ask God for wisdom because I am always making big decisions. One new and good choice that our Bridges of Hope board made last month was put me in charge of finding men to be residents in our transformational house. I therefore read a lot of applications and interview men to determine who are good fits for our house and to keep it full. This take a lot of discernment. Pray for me.

I have been trying to keep abreast of 3 young men who are totally being high flyers. They have left the church, have run away from the faith and are experimenting with the dark side. This of course brings great pain to their parents. Please pray for Giovanni, Joaquin, and Dary.

Francisco has been coming to our church regularly for the past 6 months. Before, he let his wife and daughter come but he refused to attend. What a joy to watch Francisco participate during our service. He was raised in Mexico to think of the Hallelujah's as people from another planet. Now he is becoming one himself.

Our churches are both growing. I see a lot of spiritual growth as well. Just last week Natalie, a mother of two young children, told me, "I told my mom that I learned more in one year attending Amor Viviente than I learned in the Catholic Church in the 19 years I attended." Thank you for your support of NWHM.

Preaching Series:

- 10/2 Eph. 6:5-9 A Spirit Filled Workplace
- 10/9 Eph. 6:10-13 There Is Only One Enemy
- 10/16 Eph. 6:14a The Belt of Truth
- 10/23 Eph. 6:14b The Breastplate of Righteousness
- 10/30 Eph. 6:15-17 The Rest Of The Armor

Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

- 10/2 David and Ida Richards
- 10/9 Joe and Barb Zylstra
- 10/16 Herm and Ali Laninga
- 10/23 Dale and Deloris Perry
- 10/30 Bud and Lorraine Brouwer

Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 10/2 Donna Van Beek and Terry Vander Woude
- 10/9 Tena Vanderpol and Elaine Wick
- 10/16 Barb Zylstra and Jennifer Boer
- 10/23 Pat Bosman and Helen Bowman
- 10/30 Alice Brakke and Tricia Bravener

Serving Assistants

- 10/2 Micah, Abee, Amber, Chantel
- 10/9 Caleb, Maggie, Mattea, Kylie
- 10/16 Zeke, Michal, Faith, Grace
- 10/23 Maggie, Chantel, Caleb, Abee
- 10/30 Amber, Mattea, Faith, Micah

Thank you to the young people, age 8 and older, who are willing to help the Hospitality ladies with getting food items, juice, coffee cups and juice cups ready and out on the stands. There will be a schedule posted in the storage cupboard by the hallway. This will also be printed in the bulletin a week before it is your turn. Thank you again for your willingness to help.



Offering Schedule

- 10/2 General Fund
- 10/9 General Fund
- 10/16 Outreach Fund
- 10/23 General Fund
- 10/30 Benevolent Fund

Ushering Schedule

- 10/2 Ken Wick and Joe Pruitt
- 10/9 Deloris Perry and Len Vander Woude
- 10/16 Bud Brouwer and Helen Bowman
- 10/23 Don Knutson and Len Vander Woude
- 10/30 Lou Kooistra and Ken Wick

Children & Worship Schedule

- 10/2 Dan Obbink and Kylie Thramer
- 10/9 Diane Button and Mairi Bravener
- 10/16 Bekah Roberts and Ali Laninga
- 10/23 Dan Obbink
- 10/30 Jen Roberts and Amber Obbink

Sunday School Schedule

- 10/2 Jenn Boer and Darlys Recker
- 10/9 Jenn Boer and Darlys Recker
- 10/16 Jenn Boer and Darlys Recker
- 10/23 Jolene Skovron and Diane Button
- 10/30 Jolene Skovron and Diane Button

Prayer Room

- 10/2 Evelyn Kooistra
- 10/9 Denise Doezema
- 10/16 Don Vanderpol
- 10/23 Jen Roberts
- 10/30 Lou Kooistra

October 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<p>1 9-Noon Yard cleanup for Paulino/ Georgie</p>
<p>2 9:30 Worship 11am Sunday School for All 6pm TAG</p>	<p>3 6:30pm GEMS</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:45 Women's SG 10am Mens Grp 7pm Elders/ Deacons Mtgs</p>	<p>6 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG 7pm Praise TM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9:30 Worship 11am SS 4:30 Study Grp 7:00 Study Grp</p>	<p>10 7pm Friendship</p>	<p>11 7pm Women's Study Grp 7pm Boers SG</p>	<p>12 9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's Grp 7pm Council</p>	<p>13 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG 7pm Praise TM</p>	<p>14 GEMS sleepover begins</p>	<p>15 GEMS Sleepover ends</p>
<p>16 9:30 Worship 11am Sunday School 6pm Hymn Sing & Dessert</p>	<p>17 6:30pm GEMS</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's Grp</p>	<p>20 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG 7pm Praise TM</p>	<p>21 GEMS Dessert & Bunko</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:30 Worship 11am SS 4:30 Study Grp 7:00 Study Grp</p>	<p>24 7pm Friendship</p>	<p>25 7pm Women's Study Grp 7pm Boers SG</p>	<p>26 9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's Grp 7pm Pre-Bud. Meeting</p>	<p>27 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG 7pm Praise TM</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9:30 Worship 11am SS Noon: Potluck</p>	<p>31</p>					