



# *The Monthly Heartbeat*

**The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter**

November 2016

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

## **A Story to Inspire**

From the Vitality Team

We all love stories. A good story has a way of capturing the mind and the heart. It can draw a listener or reader into itself and suddenly one finds he or she can taste and smell and see and feel the very things that are being narrated.

There are a variety of stories in the Bible. There are stories about disobedient people like Achan (Josh 7). There are stories about giants and their defeat (1Sam 17). There are stories about love (Song of Solomon) and stories about brokenness (Nehemiah 1). There are even stories about rebuilding (Ezra) and restoration (Jer. 15:19).

Because stories have power and the ability to help us see truths that we might miss if they were simply declared, it is good for us to reflect upon our life and the stories that are narrating our future. I say this to us as both individuals and a corporate body. What story has been controlling your life? What story has been controlling our church?

I would like to focus on the second question in this article, though I urge each reader to reflect on the first questions. Has our story been one of defeat? We have tried this, we have tried that and nothing has worked. Has our story been one of past glory? Once upon a time we were an exciting church, we had this program, so many people and the volunteer base was superb. Has our story been one of survival? If we can just make it through this month, then we might make another year. Frankly I am not sure, which story has been controlling us, maybe at different points in our history each of these has had its primary place. What I would like to suggest is that maybe it is time for a new story. Maybe it is time to let a new narrative capture our hearts and lead us into a renewed future.

Certainly there are many narratives that might come from the Scripture, which could be useful. I urge each of you to think on the stories of Scripture and see if one of them might be for us. Talk with your elders, deacons, pastor or others about which story might be our story. Let me suggest one possibility.

In Ezekiel 47, the prophet is being shown a vision of the future. The future centers on the temple, in particular this temple has a stream of water flowing out of it and into the world. As the water flows it deepens, as it deepens, life flourishes along its banks and things that were once dead are purified and made alive. Trees grow along the banks, fruit is born and the water itself becomes life giving to the animals that lives within it.

This story could be ours. Imagine a church so focused on Christ, where everything is about Christ, our fellowship, our service, our worship, our giving. But that is just the beginning; now imagine if that story was carried with us into the world. Everywhere we went we talked about Christ, served in Christ's name, helped dead things come alive again with the purifying waters of Christ and invited people to play in the river of life. Imagine if our volunteer service in the schools was done in the name of Christ. Imagine if our business deals were made in the name of Christ. Contemplate what it would be like to shop for Christ, to speak for Christ, to give for Christ, to do all for Christ. Imagine if there was never a moment when the life of Christ wasn't flowing forth from the temple in heaven, through the temple on earth and spilling out of your hands and feet, words and gestures. Wouldn't such a story be compelling? Wouldn't it create a community worthy of

...continued on page two

# Working our Communication Muscles: The “Logical” Muscle

By Scott Emory

In last month’s Heartbeat, Pastor Scott reminded us that our communication modes are like muscles that can get better with deliberate exercise. This month, we’re talking about the logical mode. But before we do, it might be good to remember a few general principles that apply to us all regardless of which is our primary mode. First, the goal of the effective communicator is to have the idea received by the listener be the same as the idea intended by the speaker. Second, we can’t always expect others to change to suit us, so the fastest, and most loving, way to improve our communication is for us to change our own behavior.

For those of you who aren’t logicals but are inclined to try to understand us better, there are a few things you should know about us. First and foremost, except possibly in social settings, the purpose we have in communication is to convey accurate information. It’s not to connect or build relationships. (We count on time spent together with a couple pints to do the latter.) We like to take time to think before speaking and making decisions, so being forced to make rash decisions is uncomfortable for us. We also find it uncomfortable when communication doesn’t have a logical train of thought, when numbers don’t add up, or when things are inconsistent. Regarding interruptions, as a rule, we think they’re impolite. (But we also find ourselves wishing we could break that rule when we get impatient with long-winded types.)

Here’s an interesting feature of many logical Christians: we love apologetics. People like C. S. Lewis (Mere Christianity), Josh McDowell (Evidence that Demands a Verdict), Lee Strobel (The Case for Christ), and J. Warner Wallace (Cold-Case Christianity) are our idols. Those of us with this bent firmly believe that our faith is not blind. That it’s instead reasonable, logical, and well grounded in history and evidence.

For those of us who are logical, we need to be patient with, and develop the muscles of, the other groups, as well. Remember that for some people, even working meetings are venues for connecting and building relationships, not just passing on information. When people speak without thinking first, we don’t always have to take it personally. And there will be times when it will serve us well for us to be more narrative, more empathetic, or more direct.

It’s been said that Jesus was able to operate in all four modes, at times logical, at times direct (as Pastor Scott pointed out last month), at times narrative (so many parables!), and at times empathetic. I think his logical side was often demonstrated when he was simply passing on information. In Matthew alone there are several instances. For example, look at the logic of Matt 12.25-28: “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and

no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” This is not a parable nor a plea to emotions nor a rash outburst, but rather a well thought-out idea.

How can logicals develop the other muscles? It’s going to take being deliberate. In situations when something is urgent and time is short, you may need to be abrupt. Hopefully, gently so and explaining why. At other times you may need to set your agenda aside and just listen. Really listen, not think about what you want to say next. Try to discover the underlying ideas or the story behind the story. Be a Paul follower—all things to all people—because in the end, it’s not what projects we get done but how we love God, his people, and our neighbors that matters.

## A Story to Inspire...cont. from page one

the fame of Christ? Wouldn’t its life be a story that ‘serves for food...and for healing’ in a hungry and broken world (Eze 47:12)?

Might that be our story? Might that be part of our story? Or is there another story that God wants to lead us to embrace as our future? Seek the Lord, and ask him if there is a Biblical story that could serve to inspire our future as a church.

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## The paradoxes of life

When I spend myself — body, soul and strength — I find replenishment within.

When I extend kindness freely, I find kindness growing abundantly within.

When I give abundantly to God and charity, I find my resources increasing instead of diminishing.

When I exhibit happiness, I find mostly happy responses.

When I give or serve or share or provide, I receive or am served or shared with or provided for in return.

When I offer peace of mind to another, I discover it growing within myself.

When I feel at peace with God, I discover I am at peace with the world.

—Charles Ferrell

## Deacon's Digest

By Terry Vander Woude

At the congregational meeting on Nov. 20 the Deacons will be asking the congregation to choose the five charities that our church will be supporting for this upcoming year. Each organization chosen will be given 20% of the offering taken on the third Sunday of the month for the outreach fund. We will be choosing five organizations from the following list:

**Seafarers:** Pastor John and Jean VanHemert volunteer; the organization ministers to sailors and crew members on cargo and cruise ships.

**Cascade Connections:** local agency that empowers individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.

**Kidstown:** an evangelical organization dedicated to helping orphaned children in Romania, India and Nepal.

**Northwest Hispanic Ministries:** Joe Strong has an active ministry to Hispanics in Whatcom and Skagit counties. He is also a chaplain in the Bellingham Jail.

**Envision Mission:** Mitchell and Rochelle Senti and their volunteers work with those in need.

**Lighthouse Mission:** local mission working with men and women; Aaron Speyer is their chaplain.

**International Christian Response:** organization working in Jewish and Muslim communities. We recently had a speaker from their group.

**Skookum House:** see article provided by Scott Emory

**Streetcorners:** missionaries in Canada working with First Nation members, Herm and Ali's daughter Geryllyn and her husband Mike.

### Giving in September 2016

	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Total Designated Income:	\$ 3,123	\$ 20,909
General Fund Offerings	\$ 17,755	\$161,204
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,447</u>	<u>25,549</u>
Total Undesignated Income	20,202	186,753
General Fund Expenses	<u>(17,045)</u>	<u>(167,798)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 3,157</u>	<u>\$ 18,955</u>
Total 2016 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 201,659
Year-to-Date Budget for 10 months		\$ 168,049
Total Undesignated Income		<u>186,753</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 18,704</u>

#### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 20,000

## Thanksgiving Offering Request From The Deacons

We have several couples in our church who have volunteered through World Renew; Lee and Arlene Veenstra, Don and Tena Vanderpol, Bud and Lorraine Brouwer and Jerry and Faye Hop. They have all spent time in the United States and Canada working to help those affected by flood, fire and other disasters. Last year our church sent members to the Okanagan area to help repair fences destroyed by fire. World Renew does not receive any government aid and is funded strictly by donations.

Our Thanksgiving Offering this year will be taken on behalf of World Renew. If you would like to donate to World Renew, please make your checks out to Hope in Christ church and designate on it that it is to go to World Renew. All cash collected that morning will also be given to World Renew.

The Deacons will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Bellingham Food Bank at the service on Thanksgiving morning.

## T.R.I.P—What is it?

By Barb Zylstra

TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) is a no-strings-attached fund-raiser for Hope In Christ families sending their children to Lynden, Evergreen, Ebenezer and Cornerstone Christian Schools. We (parents, non-parents, singles, senior citizens) can participate to help families in our congregation. You may purchase the cards for your use or as a gift. Our deacons distribute the accumulated rebates once a year.

The school buys gift cards in bulk and negotiates a 4% or 10% volume discount and that savings is passed along to personal families of our church in the form of Tuition offsets. All it takes is planning ahead – trading your money for gift cards BEFORE you go shopping allows you to earn a 4 or 10 cent rebate on every dollar you spend! You are never buying anything extra, anything different, or spending money you would not ordinarily spend...you just need to change your money into a different form.

You may place an order and payment with Barb Zylstra in person, email or phone before Monday and she will deliver the cards the next Sunday. Checks are made out to LCS TRIP. Barb usually has a few cards on hand, mainly grocery and coffee, and may be able to fill your order when you place it. Order blanks are available from Barb or in the church foyer.

## Skookum Kids

By Scott Emory

In November, the congregation will vote to determine which local nonprofit organizations we wish to support financially in 2017. One of the candidates is Skookum Kids (SK). This organization was founded in Bellingham in 2014 to solve “The 72-hour Problem” in foster care: the problem of housing kids new to the system without resorting to quick, inappropriate emergency placement. This typically takes up to 72 hours.

In early 2015, SK acquired a three-bedroom home rent free in Fairhaven, renovated the home to child-care standards (mostly with donations and volunteer labor), sought and provided formal training for volunteers to run the home and care for the kids, and opened the doors in mid-2015 initially for Fridays through Mondays, the days of most critical need. Since then, the program has grown in all respects. They now have approximately 90 volunteers, three full-time paid staff, and are open to receive kids seven days a week. Since opening, 200 kids have been cared for at Skookum House.

And the story does not stop there. SK has added a number of other programs including...

A free-clothing store for foster families.

Support for relatives of foster kids (who make up almost half of the foster families).

A foster-homes licensing program.

The care of kids (via our licensed foster homes) when foster parents or families need one to fourteen days of “time off”.

In addition...

SK is now in the process of applying for a license to become a foster-child placement agency.

SK has been approached by a group in east Whatcom County to possibly help set up a home there similar to Skookum House specifically for troubled kids.

For more information on the organization, please see the “What is Skookum Kids?” video clip at YouTube ([youtube.com/watch?v=R\\_T44HFEAU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_T44HFEAU4)) and watch the TED Talk “Solving the 72-Hour Problem” ([youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_6eaAaECm0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_6eaAaECm0)). Or simply go to YouTube, search for “Skookum Kids” and watch one of the many video clips there.

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“Forgiveness can remarkably restore our relationships, renew our spirits and revitalize our lives.”

—William Arthur Ward

## Interfaith Coalition Coat Drive a Warm Success!

As the cool weather finds us reaching for a jacket, we’re reminded that some of our neighbors are in need of this basic item we take for granted. This fall, we provided winter coats as well as hats and scarves to many of our neighbors. We appreciate the generous donations of winter wear from members of your congregation. Thank you for bringing some much needed warmth to others.

It was heartwarming to see parents find warm coats for their children and the old gentleman with so little proudly wear the best wrap he’s had for years. Several children beamed as they showed how nice they looked



in their new coats and darling hats. Some homeless individuals were able to find layers of sweaters and coats to help on the coldest nights.

We appreciate your commitment to this program and are humbled to experience the gratitude in words or expressions of those who benefit from your efforts.

Warmly, Laura Harker, Executive Director  
Interfaith Coalition

## Why we give to the church

We give to the work of Christ’s church a portion of the gifts that God has already given us. We give:

- in response to God’s grace in sending his Son;
- in response to the love of Jesus Christ’s dying for us;
- in response to the gifts of life which we have so abundantly received;
- in response to the opportunities God gives us to discover the meaning and purpose of life;
- in response to his presence in our lives when we need him the most.

## Preaching Series:

- 11/6 Eph. 6:18-20 The Greatest Weapon  
11/13 Special Guest from ICR  
11/20 To Be Determined  
11/24 Thanksgiving Joint Service with Legacy Church  
11/27 Advent 1: Psalm 19:7-11 Sola Scriptura

## Greeters Schedule

### Outside Doors

- 11/6 Lisa Oppenhuizen and Joe Pruitt  
11/13 Helen Bowman and Karen Smith  
11/20 Lanny and Christine Speyer  
11/24 Mike and Jenn Boer (Thanksgiving)  
11/27 Jay and Avis Kaemingk

## Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 11/6 Lorraine Brouwer, Lisa DeSalvo  
11/13 Denise Doezema, Anne Geleynse  
11/20 Carolyn Goble, Faye Hop  
11/27 Avis Kaemingk, Marilyn Kaiser

## Serving Assistants

- 11/6 Abee, Amber, Chantel, Caleb  
11/13 Maggie, Mattea, Kylie, Zeke  
11/20 Michal, Faith, Grace, Micah  
11/27 Chantel, Caleb, Abee, Amber

## Prayer Room

- 11/6 Del Bosman  
11/13 Christine Speyer  
11/20 Lanny Speyer  
11/27 Denise Doezema

*Volunteer through the church office to be a Sunday morning servant.*

## Offering Schedule

- 11/6 General Fund  
11/13 General Fund  
11/20 Outreach Fund  
11/27 General Fund

## Ushering Schedule

- 11/6 Deloris Perry and Helen Bowman  
11/13 Bud Brouwer and Len Vander Woude  
11/20 Ken Wick and Lou Kooistra  
11/24 Don Knutson and Joe Pruitt  
11/27 Deloris Perry and Helen Bowman

## Children & Worship Schedule

- 11/6 Bekah Roberts and Ali Laninga  
11/13 Dan Obbink and Kylie Thramer  
11/20 Jen Roberts and Mairi Bravener  
11/27 Bekah Roberts and Ali Laninga

## Sunday School Schedule

- 11/6 Jolene Skovron and Diane Button  
11/13 Jolene Skovron and Diane Button  
11/20 Jolene Skovron and Diane Button  
11/27 Jolene Skovron and Diane Button

## Congregational Birthdays November

- 2 Nathan Boer  
3 Evelyn Kooistra  
3 Serenity McAlister  
5 Marilyn Kaiser  
11 Christine Speyer  
11 Zeke Roberts  
13 Lou Kooistra  
14 Mitch Senti  
16 Grace Roberts  
17 Karen Smith  
18 Clara Skovron  
20 Deloris Perry  
21 Mike Button  
21 Amber Obbink  
22 Rosa McAlister  
28 Elisha Senti



# November 2016

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:45 Women's study grp 10 Men's social group  7pm Elders 7pm Deacons	<b>3</b> 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG  7pm Praise Practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>9am Persecuted Church Seminar</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship 11:00 SSchl  6pm TAG	<b>7</b> 6:30 GEMS	<b>8</b> 7pm Women's SG	<b>9</b> 9:45 Women's study grp 10 Men's social group  7pm Council	<b>10</b> 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG  7pm Praise Practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship 11:00 SSchl  4:30 Roberts Grp 7pm Laninga Grp	<b>14</b> 7pm Friendship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:45 Women's study grp 10 Men's social group	<b>17</b> 6:30am Men's SG 7pm Men's SG  7pm Praise Practice	<b>18</b> <b>4-8 Holiday Bazaar</b>	<b>19</b> <b>9-4 Holiday Bazaar</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship 11:00 SSchl and Congregational Meeting	<b>21</b> 6:30 GEMS	<b>22</b> 6:30 Boers Study Grp  7pm Women's SG	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9:30am Thanksgiving Service</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship 11:00 SSchl  4:30 Roberts Grp 7pm Laninga Grp	<b>28</b> 7pm Friendship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:45 Women's study grp 10 Men's social group			

**THESE CARDS EARN 4% REBATES:**

Bed Bath and Beyond	_____ x \$25 = _____
Bob's Burger & Brew	_____ x \$20 = _____
Buckle	_____ x \$25 = _____
Buffalo Wild Wings	_____ x \$25 = _____
Cruisin' Coffee	_____ x \$25 = _____
Edaleen Dairy Stores	_____ x \$25 = _____
Food CoOp	_____ x \$100 = _____
Fred Meyer	_____ x \$50 = _____
Fred Meyer	_____ x \$100 = _____
Heroes Resource	_____ x \$25 = _____
Jack-in-the-Box	_____ x \$10 = _____
JCPenney	_____ \$25 or _____ x \$100 = _____
Jo-Ann Fabric	_____ x \$25 = _____
Kohl's**	_____ \$25 or _____ x \$100 = _____
Lynden Dollars	_____ x \$10 = _____
Lynden Dollars	_____ x \$100 = _____
Michael's	_____ x \$25 = _____
Olive Gard Red Lobs	_____ x \$25 = _____
Papa Murphy's	_____ x \$10 = _____
Red Robin	_____ x \$25 = _____
Regal Cinema	_____ x \$25 = _____
REI	_____ x \$25 = _____
Rite-Aid	_____ x \$25 = _____
Safeway	_____ x \$25 = _____
Safeway	_____ x \$100 = _____
Shutterfly	_____ x \$25 = _____
Starbucks	_____ x \$10 = _____
Starbucks	_____ x \$25 = _____
Subway	_____ x \$25 = _____
T. J. Maxx/Marshalls	_____ x \$25 = _____

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: 12% REBATE ON:**

Children's Place	_____ x \$25 = _____
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**4% REBATE ON CUSTOM CHECKS \***

Vendor Name:	Amt Request:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

\*Custom Check order request must be greater than \$100; please verify if restrictions exist (on back of form)

\*\*May be used to pay charge card balances in person at Customer Service Counter in store

THIS COLUMN TOTAL >> \$

REBATE (NAME HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD):

RECEIPT NUMBER:

**THESE CARDS EARN 10% REBATES:**

American Eagle	_____ x \$25 = _____
Applebees	_____ x \$25 = _____
Bath & Body Works	_____ x \$10 = _____
Cabela's	_____ x \$25 = _____
Cabela's	_____ x \$100 = _____
Chipotle Mexican Grill	_____ x \$10 = _____
Food Pavilion/Markets	_____ x \$50 = _____
Food Pavilion/Markets	_____ x \$100 = _____
Gap/Old Navy	_____ x \$25 = _____
Haggen	_____ x \$50 = _____
Haggen	_____ x \$100 = _____
Hinton:Service & Parts	_____ x \$100 = _____
<i>(Hinton's will also donate \$10 to LC's Tuition Assistance Fund!)</i>	
Jake's Western Grill	_____ x \$25 = _____
Launching Success	_____ x \$25 = _____
Little Caesar's (Local)	_____ x \$25 = _____
<i>(Caesar's will also donate \$2.50 to LC's Tuition Assistance Fund!)</i>	
McDonalds	_____ x \$10 = _____
Muddy Waters	_____ x \$10 = _____
Muddy Waters	_____ x \$25 = _____
Old Navy/Gap	_____ x \$25 = _____
Rusty Wagon <small>(Hannegan Rd)</small>	_____ x \$25 = _____
Steakhouse 9 & Bistro	_____ x \$25 = _____
Two Sisters Koffie	_____ x \$25 = _____
New York Pizza	_____ x \$25 = _____
Westside Pizza	_____ x \$25 = _____
Woods Coffee	_____ x \$20 = _____

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: 20% REBATE ON:**

Aeropostale	_____ x \$25 = _____
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[ ] I/WE HAVE A TUITION ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I/WE HAVE A TUITION ACCOUNT BUT WANT TO KEEP REBATES ON RESERVE FOR LATER

[ ] DO NOT HAVE A TUITION ACCOUNT SO PLEASE SEND YEAR-END STATEMENTS TO:  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "LCS TRIP"

THIS COLUMN TOTAL >> \$

My name:	
My phone	GRAND TOTAL
PAYMENT TYPE:	

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As Jesus tells us in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, all people are our neighbors. You can make a difference for others, beginning in your own neighborhood. Make and share this craft so people know you care and are thankful for your community.

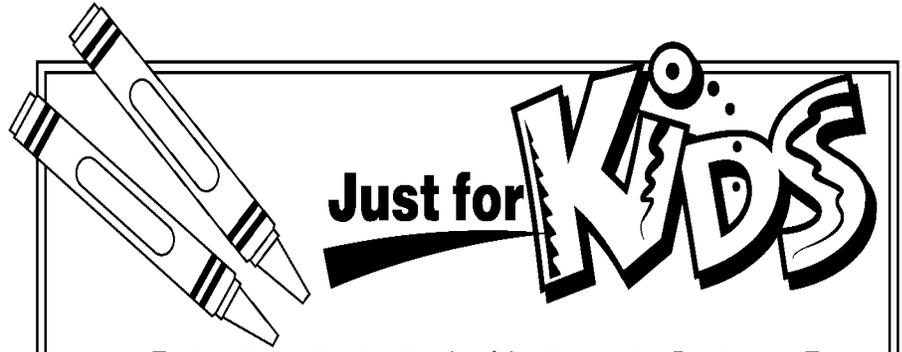
## What you need:

- Clear, disposable, non-powdered, non-latex gloves
- Craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Popped popcorn (about 3 cups per glove)
- Rubber bands
- Ribbon or raffia
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Hole punch



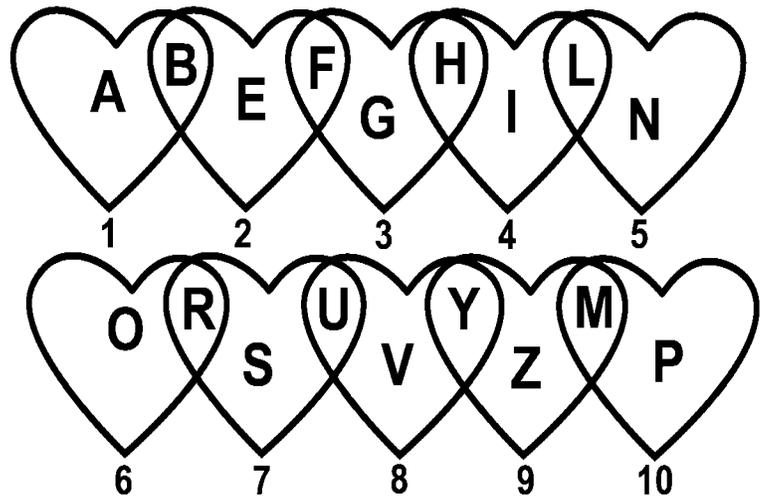
## What you do:

1. Paint one side of the glove's fingertips to look like fingernails.
2. Fill the fingertips, then the rest of the glove, with cooled popcorn.
3. Wrap a rubber band around the wrist of the glove.
4. Tie ribbon or raffia around the rubber band.
5. Make a card. Ideas include "Welcome to the neighborhood," "Thanks for being such nice neighbors," "Here's how we'd like to serve you," etc.
6. Punch a hole in the corner of your card and tie it to the glove.
7. With an adult, pass out your "neighborly" gifts.



## THE SECOND GREAT Commandment

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, NIV). Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.



"L  
 4,5 6 8 2 8,9 6 7,8 6,7  
 5 2 4 3 3,4 1,2 6 6,7  
 1 7  
 8,9 6 7,8 6,7 7 2 4,5 2,3

Matthew 22:39, NIV

Answer: "Love your neighbor as yourself."