



# ***The Monthly Heartbeat***

**The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter**

March 2017 Issue 3

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

## **Starting Spiritual Conversations**

By Pastor Scott

I have a confession: I have never been good at starting spiritual conversations with strangers. For most of my adult life, my ministry has been done on the backs of others. As a campus pastor, my students brought their friends who had questions and I would engage in great dialogues that others helped to facilitate. As a husband, my wife always seemed to be able to connect with people and introduce me to them and then conversations would take off when they learned I worked for a church-like organization.

I never really learned how to start conversations with friends or family without someone else making the initial contact for me. Maybe you are like me, the thought of walking into a room full of people and trying to start talking to someone is frankly terrifying and exhausting. But then again, maybe you love to talk to people about all sorts of things, but you never seem to be able to turn a conversation to the realm of faith. Either way, I want to invite you to join me for a once a month gathering on the First Sunday of each month at 6 pm. We will be learning the 9 arts of spiritual conversations: Noticing, praying, listening, asking questions, loving, welcoming, facilitating, serving together and sharing.

I believe these 9 arts are just the habits that make for good conversation and good friendship in general, but the QPlace has done a great job of helping Christians to learn how these good communication techniques can be intentionally put to work to help people learn about Christ. We will introduce the 9 arts on Sunday March 5 at 6 p.m.

Would you come and join as we cultivate the habits of spiritual conversation?

## **Light Of The World Prayer Center to Host Dessert Event**

By Christy Tucker

Light of the World Prayer Center will be holding their annual fundraiser dessert event on March 23rd 7-9pm. The event will be held in the sanctuary of Hope in Christ Church. This is a great opportunity to hear some testimonies of answered prayers in our community through Day2Pray, and an update on the ministry of the Prayer Center. Please RSVP to Christy Tucker at [christytucker@lowpc.org](mailto:christytucker@lowpc.org) if you would like to attend or want more information.

## **GEMS Baked Potato and Bunko Event**

The GEMS will be hosting their annual dinner on March 3 beginning at 5:30 p.m. They will be serving baked potatoes with all the trimmings, along with dessert. Join the students and their counselors following the dinner for an evening playing Bunko—you may even win a prize! The girls will be accepting free-will offering for the dinner. Don't want to play Bunko? Then just come for the dinner and support our GEMS group.



# Items of Interest from February's Council Meeting

By Mike Boer

Notable notes from February Council meeting:

Continuing to read Sticking Points by Haydn Shaw with a discussion of knowledge transfer and loyalty.

Met with Christine Miller with Creative Youth Theater to use our facility for 2 weeks in July. The Theater is in their 21st year and is composed of 90-95% Christian children. Schedule and timing will minimally affect Sunday worship. Council voted to allow the usage with the opportunity to continue in the future years.

Pastor Scott recommended two books for reading: The Heavenly Man by Brother Yun and Rejoicing in Lament by Billings.

Church Vitality process is moving forward with the formation of the Strategic Ministry Planning Team that will work through the Pulse survey and facilitate the next stage of the Vitality process.

Home Mission project - New discussion of combining painting of the Worship Center at the same time as the renovation of the Admin building.

Envision Missions Jesus Gathering seems to be going well meeting at our facility on the 2nd Sundays at 4:30 PM. Motion was passed to allow Envision Mission to continue using our space for worship

External signage discussion was made about the new signage. Motion was passed to look into reskinning the corner side with bolder/larger lettering.

The new Administrative Assistant job description was discussed and passed with a motion. Job announcement will be placed with the church family, in the Community Bulletin and on the HICC website.

The council reaffirmed our existing Policy for receiving and designated funds - look for the Heartbeat article from Dan Obbink for more information.

Home Evangelism project proposed by Rebecca Roberts discussion - Please keep praying for this process and planning.

Council voted to have Pastor Scott Roberts, Elder Michael Boer and Deacon Dan Obbink to be eligible to be Synodical Candidates to the CRC Synod. This will allow Classis Pacific Northwest to have the vote at it's March meeting.

## A PRAYER REMINDER

Many times we fold our hands together to pray. Here is a "handy" craft that can help you remember what to include in your prayers.

### What you need:

- 2 sheets of 8½" x 11" construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Crayons
- 1 piece of ribbon, yarn or string about 6-12 inches long
- Glue (white or glue stick)

### What to do:

1. Trace your hand on one sheet of paper.
2. Cut out the traced hand.
3. Tie the ribbon, yarn or string around the pointer (index) finger.
4. Write a message on each finger:  
(Pointer finger) God's guidance (pray for help to follow God's ways)  
(Middle finger) Leaders in my life (teachers, pastors, etc.)  
(Ring finger) Sick and old people  
(Pinky finger) Myself (Thumb) My family
5. Glue the hand onto the other sheet of paper.
6. Start with the ribbon finger and pray for God's help. Then pray for all the people on each finger.

## Are Your Charitable Contributions Tax Deductible? From the Deacons

As the annual tax filing deadline approaches, the Deacons have fielded several questions and concerns about the tax deductibility of charitable contributions. In response, we offer the following three points.

First, our church has an established policy (from the 2009 congregational meeting) what we believe complies with the legal standards of charitable contributions as outlined by the IRS. If you would like to see the full policy, please contact one of your deacons.

Second, your monetary contributions are eligible for a tax deduction if they meet the following general guidelines:

- contribution is unconditional and without personal benefit to the donor
- contribution is made ‘to or for the use of’ the church

No deduction ordinarily is allowed unless our church exercises full administrative control over the donated funds to ensure that they are being spent in furtherance of our church’s exempt purposes. Consider the following two examples:

Example 1: A father says, “Use this \$5,000 check to cover my daughter’s medical expenses.” This donation would not be eligible for a tax deduction as the intended recipient was specified by, and was for the personal benefit of, the donor.

Example 2: A church member contributed money to the benevolence fund for the deacons to determine how to distribute. This donation would be eligible for a tax deduction as the church is administering control over how the funds are being spent.

Third, below is a summary of the most common funds used for donation at our church:

**General Fund** – Meets the day to day operational needs of our church and advances God’s kingdom by supporting the work of our local classis and broader denomination.

**Benevolence Fund** – Assists persons in financial need.

**Building Fund** – Provides for the future needs of our church for major repairs, major remodeling, expansion, or construction of facilities for our church.

**Debt Reduction Fund** – Assists in the reduction of long term liabilities.

**Outreach Fund** – Provides resources for our church, church members, or other worthy persons or organizations spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. As voted on last November, the ministries supported in 2017 include the following: Envision, Seafarer’s, International Christian Response, Lighthouse Mission, and Streetcorners.

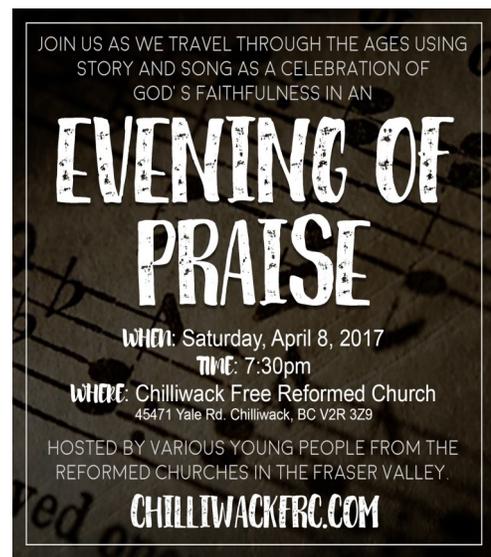
**Education Fund** – Provides resources for our church and its teaching ministries, including: youth ministry, children’s ministry, adult ministry, Sunday school, Women’s Ministry, Men’s Ministry, Discipleship, and Training.

**Adoption Assistance Fund** – Provides adoption assistance as part of our purpose to enfold children in to the family of God. In an effort to encourage families to consider adoption, the fund aids families in paying for adoption related expenses.

Finally, a few parting reminders:

- The deacons request that donations be made to one of the established funds. The memo line on a check is an easy way to indicate the intended fund.
- The deacons will consider specific recommendations from anyone (especially for the use of the benevolence, outreach and adoption funds). However, in order to maintain your tax deduction, the deacons may, but are not bound to, honor a specific recommendation.

Thank you for your generous support again this year! Please contact a deacon if you have questions or concerns.



# Deacon's Digest

By Terry Vander Woude

With the help of Christine Speyer and Ali Laninga, who put together our donation, the Deacons donated a basket of goodies for the Interfaith Coalition's annual auction being held in March.

Thank you to everyone for their generous donation to the benevolence fund. Hope in Christ Church donated \$1,000 to Love, INC. for their use in assisting those in need with heating bills. Here is a response to our gift that we received from Love, INC:

"All of us at Love In the Name of Christ wish to thank you for your gift of \$1,000. We're grateful to partner in the work of the gospel with you in Whatcom County and serving those in need. We praise the Lord for His grace and compassion that is coming through the Kingdom of God. Through your partnership, you were able to help a couple where the wife is battling cancer, and because of that they are struggling with finances. We learned that several community members are helping with other needs and you helped to provide firewood for heat. Without your prayers and partnering gifts, we wouldn't be able to accomplish this work! There are many people's lives being touched through this ministry. Thank you. May the name of Jesus be exalted and treasured in this city."

Love INC will be using the funds to help others with their heating bills.

## Giving in January 2017

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 6,767	\$ 8,028
General Fund Offerings	\$17,419	\$ 35,184
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>1,078</u>	<u>3,078</u>
Total Undesignated Income	18,497	38,262
General Fund Expenses	<u>(18,599)</u>	<u>(38,574)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (101)</u>	<u>\$ (312)</u>
Total 2017 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 222,173
Year-to-Date Budget for 2 months		\$ 37,029
Total Undesignated Income		<u>38,262</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 1,233</u>

### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 20,000

*"One particular four-year-old prayed, 'And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'"*

## Congregational Birthdays For March

- 02 John Koning
- 10 Ruth Stadt
- 16 Connie Knutson
- 19 Caleb Roberts
- 19 Ken Anderson
- 22 Esther Vanden Bos
- 25 Miriam Speyer
- 26 Tyrone Abitia (McAlister)
- 26 Terry VanderWoude
- 28 Dale Perry
- 29 Alice Skovron



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

Mark your calendar: Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction happens on Saturday, March 25, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton. Whatcom County's friendliest 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 \$55 each, including 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 children and their families. Partner with us by attending Hope Auction and lifting up our brothers and sisters! Together our coalition of diverse congregations makes a difference. To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please call Interfaith Coalition at (360) 734-3983 or through our website: [www.interfaith-coalition.org](http://www.interfaith-coalition.org)

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## Preaching Series:

- 3/5 The Greatness of God—1 Chr. 29:10-13
- 3/12 The Fear of God—Eccl. 12:13
- 3/19 The Love of God—Hosea 2:14-31, Rom 8:32-39
- 3/26 Risking For the Rewards of Heaven—Luke 6:27-35

## Greeters Schedule

### Outside Doors

- 3/5 Jay and Avis Kaemingk
- 3/12 Denise Doezema and Helen Bowman
- 3/19 Don and Elaine Snapper
- 3/26 Ruth Stadt and Joe Pruitt

## Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 3/5 Helen Bowman and Alice Brakke
- 3/12 Tricia Bravener and Lorraine Brouwer
- 3/19 Lisa DeSalvo and Denise Doezema
- 3/26 Faye Hop and Avis Kaemingk

## Serving Assistants Schedule

- 3/5 Abee, Thad, Caleb
- 3/12 Amber, Chantel, Maggie
- 3/19 Mattea, Kylie, Zeke
- 3/26 Michal, Faith, Grace

## Prayer Room

- 3/5 Jen Roberts
- 3/12 Evelyn Kooistra
- 3/19 Ida Richards
- 3/26 Lorraine Brouwer

## Offering Schedule

- 3/5 General Fund
- 3/12 General Fund
- 3/19 Outreach Fund
- 3/26 General Fund

## Ushering Schedule

- 3/5 Joe Pruitt and Don Knutson
- 3/12 Deloris Perry and Helen Bowman
- 3/19 Bud Brouwer and Lou Kooistra
- 3/26 Len Vander Woude and Ken Wick

\*\*\*Volunteers are needed

## Children & Worship Schedule

- 3/5 Bekah Roberts and Ali Laninga
- 3/12 Diane Button
- 3/19 Dan Obbink and Kylie Thramer
- 3/26 Diane Button and Mairi Bravener

## Sunday School Schedule

- 3/5 Mike Boer and Ida Richards
- 3/12 Herm and Ali Laninga and Jolene Skovron
- 3/19 Herm and Ali Laninga and Jolene Skovron
- 3/26 Herm and Ali Laninga and Jolene Skovron



# March 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's social grp 7pm Elders and Deacons Meet</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30am Men's SG Meets 7pm Men's SG meets 7pm Praise Team</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>5:30pm GEMS Baked potato and Bunko evening</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:00 SS <b>6:00pm TAG</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:30pm GEMS Meets</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's social grp 7-7:45 Prayer with council 8pm Council meets</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:30am Men's SG Meets 7pm Men's SG meets 7pm Praise Team</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:00 SS 4:30pm Envision Mission 4:30pm Roberts Grp meets 7pm Laninga</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>7pm Friendship Meets</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>6:30pm Boers Grp Meets 7pm Women's SG Meets</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's social grp</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:30am Men's SG Meets 7pm Men's SG meets 7pm Praise Team</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:00 SS</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6:30pm GEMS Meets</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's social grp</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30am Men's SG Meets 7pm Men's SG meets <b>7pm LOWPC Dessert Fund Raiser</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:00 SS 4:30pm Roberts Grp Meets 7pm Laninga Grp Meets</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>7pm Friendship Meets</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6:30pm Boers Grp Meets 7pm Women's SG Meets</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:45 Women's SG 10am Men's social grp</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>6:30am Men's SG Meets 7pm Men's SG meets 7pm Praise Team</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	