



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

September 2017 Issue

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Family Promise

By Pastor Scott

Evangelism and mercy; evangelism and compassion; evangelism and kindness; evangelism and generosity—often we don't link evangelism with these terms. On the contrary, we link evangelism with terms like preachy, judgmental, and one-sided communication. Oh, how far our ideas of evangelism are from the Biblical witness. Throughout the Scriptures, God calls us to care for widows, orphans, strangers, travelers, and those suffering or in dire straits.

*The Christian is called to serve the needy
and care for the poor.*

Deuteronomy 24:19-21; 26:13

Micah 6:8, Proverbs 14:21; 28:27

These weren't just nice things the followers of Christ were to do in order to be good Samaritans or to help their cities and countries. On the contrary, these were the ways that God knew the message of love, hope, and grace could be best communicated. These were ways that helped people be receptive to the message of Christ. When Christians meet the needs of real people and tangibly express concern, they are presenting the body of Christ to those who may not yet believe. We are giving them a picture of transformed living that is compelling and magnetic. Such love pulls people into the orbit of Christ and the gravitational field of Jesus draws them ever closer.

*It's hard to dismiss those who are loving you
and meeting your needs.*

This was the experience of the early church. Justin Martyr sketched Christian love this way:

“We who used to value the acquisition of wealth and pos-

sessions more than anything else now bring what we have into a common fund and share it with anyone who needs it. We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies.”

Clement, describing the person who has come to know God, wrote,

“He impoverishes himself out of love, so that he is certain he may never overlook a brother in need, especially if he knows he can bear poverty better than his brother. He likewise considers the pain of another as his own pain. And if he suffers any hardship because of having given out of his own poverty, he does not complain. The monies thus collected are used to feed and bury the poor, to support wretched orphans, both boys and girls, as well as helpless old people who are unable to leave their homes. It is also used to help the shipwrecked, those sentenced to labor in mines or exiled to islands, and finally prisoners, if they have to endure imprisonment for their faith in Christ. This tradition is so characteristic of Christians that heathens point at them: ‘Look how much they love one another!’”

It was no wonder that in a short three hundred years, Christianity spread rapidly across Africa, Asia and Europe. This can only be true if the church didn't just give charity, but also told people about their need for the savior as they helped them.

*Our congregation is being presented with an
opportunity to help needy families in our
community – mercy, compassion, kindness,
and generosity – and to help them in the
name of Jesus – evangelism.*

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Family Promise isn't the only way these qualities and calls to discipleship can occur, and they might not even be the best way, but they appear to be an effective way for helping families who have lost their homes to get back on track.

Family Promise invites a church to either host 14 people (3-5 families) in their facilities for one week, four times a year, or to support a host church and provide additional people to help during the week.

In conjunction with the support churches, the host church coordinates warm dinners, cold breakfasts, and bag lunches for seven nights in a row. The host church also provides a couple to be available in the building overnight while hosted families are present from 5 pm to 7 am each day. (This is a very brief sketch of the program. You can learn more at <http://familypromise.org/programs/core-program/>)

If our congregation chooses to participate in either capacity, I believe we will begin participating in loving evangelism. We will have the opportunity to ask families if there is anything we can pray about with them. We can share our stories of how God has provided for our needs and we can joyfully welcome and be hospitable to people in our community that we would likely never meet if it weren't for Family Promise.

If you are excited about the possibilities that exist in Family Promise, then please speak with an elder or deacon this week. If you don't believe this is the right way for us to blend mercy, compassion, kindness, generosity and evangelism, please let us know that too.

Giving in July 2017

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 3,262	\$ 32,135
General Fund Offerings	\$16,311	\$127,325
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,764</u>	<u>17,345</u>
Total Undesignated Income	19,075	144,670
General Fund Expenses	<u>(20,700)</u>	<u>(150,332)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (1,625)</u>	<u>\$ (5,662)</u>
Total 2017 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 222,173
Year-to-Date Budget for 8 months		\$ 148,115
Total Undesignated Income		<u>144,670</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ (3,445)</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 20,000

Perspectives Class Coming in January

From Whatcom Community Bulletin

"Perspectives," a 15-week learning opportunity to give you a new and deeper understanding of God's story and His desire for you to be a part of it, runs from Jan. 18 to May 10 at the Ferndale Conference and Retreat Center, 5942 Portal Way. There are three levels to choose from, including one that gives college credit. Fees start at \$275. To register or for more information including the reading schedule, contact county mobilizer Duranda Marchell at (925) 408-1337 or class coordinator Scott Rempel at scott_rempel@wycliffe.org. You can also visit perspectives.org

New Way Needs Daycare Volunteers

From Whatcom Community Bulletin

New Way Ministries has a need for daily volunteers to assist the coordinator with infants enrolled in the daycare. New Way is looking for people who love holding and playing with babies. The shifts are four to six hours. To learn more or volunteer, call Edi or Suzanne at the New Way office at (360) 354-9930.

Volunteer With Love INC

From Whatcom Community Bulletin

Love INC is looking for phone call volunteers for its Calling Center. If you are available to serve between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. any days Mondays through Thursdays, call the office at (360) 671-6201.

Serve Those With Disabilities

From Whatcom Community Bulletin

Cascade Connections is seeking caring and compassionate people to help support and serve individuals with disabilities. Cascade Christian Home in Lynden needs part-time staff for assisting clients with all activities of daily living including cooking, cleaning, bathing, and going on supported trips in the community. Staff will provide all the necessary training to those who are willing to serve. If you have a heart for this type of ministry, please call a manager at (360) 398-2052 or email wbranch@ccsite.org.

Intentional Evangelism

By Mitchell Senti

“What do I do, just go up to someone and ask them if they know Jesus and can I share the Gospel with them?” If that’s what God leads you to do, go for it. I have a friend who is practicing that everywhere he goes. Most of us, however, aren’t practicing that, so what do we do? Give up? I think not. Maybe you’ve heard me on this before but I believe the Apostle’s teaching on evangelism is simple:

Colossians 4:2-6 starts with,

1- “Be devoted to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Evangelism must begin with prayer!

We need the power of God in order to be effective in this work and Envision has always seen that fruit has come from prayer, not from programs. That is also the Biblical witness we’ve been given.

What do we pray for?

2- “Pray for...an open door...”

the next verse tells us. Every time we pray that prayer God is quick to answer it.

But just having an open door is not enough.

3- We must pray that “the mystery of Christ will be made known”

to them as the next verse then explains.

Folks don’t come to Christ because of our amazing presentation, but rather because as we speak, the Holy Spirit makes it known to those to whom He chooses to make it known. You can talk to someone until you’re blue in the face, but if the Holy Spirit isn’t quickening them, they won’t come to Christ because of your fine arguments or eloquent words.

Most of us don’t think we have fine arguments or eloquent words. We feel inadequate. And that’s good, because in ourselves we are.

But then we learn to pray for the words.

4- “Pray that I may make it clear, as I ought to...”

Paul says, and we can pray this for evangelists of course, but we can also pray for it ourselves.

Then come our actions:

5- “Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders.”

This is vital, because we are the only Bible they may be reading. We must let our light shine before men so they can see the glory of God.

The next phrase:

6- “making the most of every opportunity...”

is vital because we’ve been praying for open doors, for the mystery of Christ to be revealed, for the words, living it out and now the door has opened. The person is asking, or the person is telling us something that relates so obviously to the Gospel we can’t deny it’s an opportunity.

Now the Apostles tell us to speak, using words that are:

7- “seasoned with salt and full of grace.”

The Spirit then promises us at that point that we will “know how to answer everyone.” We spice up the conversation and bring grace. God will give us the words. In what context? With our neighbors, at work, in social settings, at school- everywhere.

What do we say? 1 Peter 3:14-15 says it well. Like as in Colossians 4, being devoted to prayer means setting apart Christ as Lord in our hearts.

Then the Apostle Peter tells us to be ready to give an answer for the reason for the hope we have.

How has Christ given you hope? Peace? Joy? Think about that and just share it.

Meditate on the Gospel of Jesus Christ- how he saved us, what that means day to day? Share that as opportunity comes.

But it doesn’t just stop there. Now invite folks into your life. If they express interest, pray with them, even if you’re heart starts beating faster and you’re uncomfortable. Invite them to Bible Study, to church, to your home for a barbeque, on an errand. Let them get to know you and you them. In this way you invite them to follow Jesus with you. It’s not just getting people to pray a prayer, but making disciples- it’s relational, it’s enfolding them and letting them enfold you.

Just as God enfolded us, so we can enfold others who were strangers and now can be friends in Him.

HalleluYah! That’s the Gospel in action.

Friendship Class

By Tanya Obbink

God is at work in exciting ways and it's with awe and wonder that I continue to serve Him in this ministry.

The Friendship Class plans to complete their study of the Holy Spirit this year. They'll be studying how the Holy Spirit helps us believe and how He teaches us to live.

The Together Class will be continuing their study called, "Jesus: Face to Face" with their first lesson about meeting Jesus when we're lonely. Herm will once again be leading the Together Class. To go along with our lessons, both classes will participate in a service project – a sock drive – alongside **Envision Ministry**. I am excited for this partnership opportunity and the way it'll tie into our lessons!

**Here is where, if you feel called,
you can HELP the Friendship Ministry:**

PRAY!

For hearts of friends and their caregivers. For mentors in their ministry to our friends. For God's guidance to be faithfully followed, etc.

DRIVE!

Students to and from class. From Bellingham and a few other Whatcom county areas. Run your errands from 7:00-8:15.

CHRISTMAS!

Organize and lead the Christmas program. I'll train and help as needed and be the one to open and close the presentation.

SUBSTITUTE!

As a driver or mentor. With many mentors enjoying a stage of life where they can travel, there are occasional meetings where a few are gone at the same time.

The Friendship and Together classes continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 7:00 - 8:15pm, September thru May. Feel free to stop by during any class and see what's happening.

If you would like more information, please contact Tanya at 738-4718 or tanya.obbink@gmail.com. I am looking forward to seeing what the Holy Spirit has in store for us this year as we continually strive to live our lives for His glory alone!

Children's Sunday School

By Diane Button

It's been a great summer, and now that it's September it's time to get ready for Sunday school! The kids' classes will begin September 10th. We will have Children & Worship during the Sunday school hour again, and all classes start at 11:00. We have a need for teachers for C&W, and the Wonder and Marvel classes. Please check out the sign up sheet posted on the wall by the credenza in the foyer.

Here's a breakdown of the classes and the kids that are in them. Please be praying for them and the teachers throughout the year.

Children & Worship:

Zachariah Koning

Eliana Ruitter

Johnny Koning

Wonder:

Alice Skovron

Brenna Koning

Evan Boer

Amariah Ruitter

Clara Skovron

Marvel:

Abee Koning

Micah Obbink

Nathan Boer

Faith Roberts

Maggie Skovron

Michal Ruitter

Grace Roberts

Dive:

Ana Maria Byson

Thad Speyer

Mattea Ruitter

Chantel Obbink

Caleb Roberts

Amber Obbink

Kylie Thrumer

Zeke Roberts

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship & Communion	4	5	6 7:00 PM Elders Deacons	7 6:30 AM Men's Group 7 PM Praise Team	8	9
10 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	11 7 PM Friendship Class	12 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	13 7 PM Council	14 6:30 AM Men's Group 7 PM Praise Team	15	16
17 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	18	19	20 "Heartbeat" newsletter deadline	21 6:30 AM Men's Group 7 PM Praise Team	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 Roberts Small Group	25 7 PM Friendship Class	26 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	27 7 PM Worship Planning Team	28 6:30 AM Men's Group 7 PM Praise Team	29	30 1:30 PM Ladies' Tea

Happy Birthday To You!

3 Lorraine Brouwer 6 Chantel Obbink 16 Abigail Cunningham 25 Jennifer Boer
 5 Lee Veenstra 11 Jan Scholten 16 Rochelle Senti 28 Aaron Speyer
 6 Kyle Sentkowski 11 Barbara Zylstra 19 Isaac Speyer 30 Jonathan Senti
 15 Troy Jones 24 Ellie Roberts

Preaching Series

9/03	What is the Gospel? <i>Titus 3:4-7</i>
9/10	Guest Pastor– Nathaniel Thompson
9/17	When We Encounter Jesus <i>1 John</i>
9/24	Growing in Your Fellowship with God and Others <i>1 John</i>

Greeters Schedule

9/03	Lou & Ev Kooistra
9/10	Jerry & Faye Hop
9/17	David & Ida Richards, Junior Johnson
9/24	Herm & Ali Laninga

Cookie Schedule

9/03	Ida Richards, Jen Roberts
9/10	Rockelle Ruiter, Jan Scholten
9/17	Joanne Schultz, Jolene Skovron
9/24	Karen Smith, Elaine Snapper

Serving Assistants

9/03	Chantel, Caleb, Maggie
9/10	Abee, Kylie, Zeke
9/17	Amber, Faith, Grace
9/24	Mattea, Michal, Amariah

Prayer Room

9/03	Jay Kaemingk
9/10	Christine Speyer
9/17	Lorraine Brouwer
9/24	Lanny Speyer

Offering Schedule

9/03	General Fund
9/10	General Fund
9/17	Outreach Fund
9/24	General Fund

Ushering Schedule

9/03	Deloris Perry, Elaine Snapper
9/10	Bud Brouwer, Joe Pruitt
9/17	Don Knutson, Ken Wick
9/24	Len Vander Woude, Lou Kooistra

Children & Worship

9/10	Dan, Mattea
9/17	Bekah, Ali
9/24	Jen R., Mairi

Sunday School Observance

September: Jerry Hop

Sunday School Schedule

9/10	Melissa, Jenn B.
9/17	Melissa, Jenn B.
9/24	Melissa, Jenn B.

Not Able to Serve When Scheduled?

*Please call someone on the
list and make a plan to trade
dates.*