



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

October 2017 Issue

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

Glorifying God **By Pastor Scott**

What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy him forever. With these words the Westminster Shorter Catechism begins to instruct the Christian on their purpose for living. But what does glorifying really mean? The Greek word behind glorify has to do with influencing people so that you enhance another's reputation. The Hebrew word has to do with making something heavy, or with substance. Taken together, to glorify God is to help others see how awesome our God is. Built into the purpose of humanity is a mission to go out and make God known in such a way that others want to join in the same mission.

Glorifying God isn't just about saying something nice about God on Sunday morning. It includes that, but it is more. To glorify God means that we say good things about God every day and in every place so that others will hear about God's loving-kindness, mercy and forgiveness.

But glorifying God is more than an act of speech. There are many ways to influence others; speech is but one of them. We can influence others by loving them, serving them, meeting their needs, standing up for them, praying for them, and the list could go on. Unfortunately, as people we tend to reduce our toolbox to one tool. We are the proverbial repairman who fixes everything with a hammer. Some of that is because we are more comfortable using one form of influence over another. We serve but never speak, encourage but never give to alleviate need, pray but never fight for justice, etc. But like the repairman who only uses the hammer, our effectiveness as people who glorify God is seriously limited by this kind of single tool approach.

In order to glorify God so that others are influenced to embrace Christ, we will need a life overflowing with all the tools – words, deeds, charity, service, prayer, etc. So the next time you have a chance to do or say something, ask yourself if there is another tool that you might use in conjunction with your hammer. At first, it may feel awkward to add the words to the service, the money to the prayers, etc., but like any tool, the more you use it the more comfortable and proficient you will become and the more influence for God you will exercise.

There is a second phrase that we need to consider. The authors of the Westminster Catechism also understood that glorifying God by itself wasn't enough. There must be a genuine enjoyment from being with God and extending his reputation. I must admit that I have often expressed my Christian life more in terms of duty or responsibility than in terms of joy. Being the son of a military officer has taught me many wonderful things about discipline and order but one thing it didn't teach me was to enjoy the work, and unfortunately that has bled over into my Christian life. It is a daily struggle for me to live life from the perspective of gratitude and thanks instead of obedience and order. It is hard to celebrate when you only know discipline.

But consider this: Does one's reputation grow so that others want to follow when order and discipline is the motivating factor behind the labor? It may, but likely, such a life isn't compelling. But if the people who are promoting their company, their boss, their work are fun to be with, have smiles and parties and genuinely laugh and care about others, is that compelling? Don't others want to join in the fun?

I had a friend who worked in a phone bank for Dell Computers. Arguably a horrible job – talking with strangers, placing orders, solving problems, helping people without

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

any computer sense do the most mundane of tasks. But he loved it. Why? The company understood that in order to retain and grow their customer service section, they would have to be fun. Whenever I would talk with Jim on the phone at work, I could hear the fun in the background, the laughing, the party horns, the gongs and celebration. I was tempted.

What if the Church and her members were more like that? What if we were known for serving, helping, speaking, worshiping, etc. and it was always done in fun? What if we were the ones throwing the parties that everyone else wanted to attend? Would that be more enjoyable to you and to those who don't know God yet? So the next time you are in the world doing anything, ask yourself, "How can I make this fun so that I enjoy it and others will enjoy it as well?" Then do it, and you will truly be glorifying God and enjoying him forever.

A Heart for Compassion

By Dan Obbink

"Struggling to survive!" That was the honest response from the gray bearded man when I asked him how he was doing. My first thought was to politely acknowledge his response and move along to my next planned activity. However, I could see the longing in his eyes and felt a need to stay longer. I knew he was thinking about moving back into the woods. I thought about offering solutions. Solutions for housing. Solutions for food. Yet I resisted the urge to just try to "fix" the situation. I asked another question and listened as the man shared his journey through life. As I listened for the next fifteen minutes, I tried to imagine something I had not experienced...homelessness.

Given my role as deacon and my wife's role in Friendship, I've been thinking more recently about compassion, considering our recently crafted mission statement (Glorify God by knowing, living, and proclaiming our Hope in Christ).

- **Knowing** – The definition of compassion includes having a concern for the sufferings of others. The gospels describe Jesus showing compassion to the crowds in Matthew 9:36, Mathew 14:14, and Mark 6:34. There is the call in James 1:27 to look after orphans and widows. While knowing is a start, compassion is more than knowing.
- **Living** – I like my own shoes. They are comfortable. They fit well. Putting myself in the "shoes of someone else" is difficult and can be hard. Rather than trying to see through the lens or viewpoint of someone else's hurts, it's often

easier to be focused on our life, our agenda, and our scheduled activities. Yet some of my most impactful memories are when I've taken the time to see the viewpoints of others.

- **Proclaiming** – This one is tougher for me, yet no less important. Even unbelievers can know what is good or live in a way that appears honorable. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I can proclaim my reason (God's glory) while demonstrating compassion. And when I fall short, which will usually be the case, that doesn't provide an excuse to stop trying. Rather, it provides me an opportunity to share what God is doing despite my inadequacies.

Transforming communities through active compassion, mercy and justice ministries is one of the ten missional markers on our pathway to becoming a healthy, missional church. Yet a formal ministry is not needed to show compassion, mercy, and justice. Rather, it begins with individual actions, by me and by you.

I'm reminded of an analogy from Kevin Harney's book, *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*. Some have the spiritual gift of giving. They give beyond the norm and naturally share their resources freely. Yet all Christians are called to give with generous hearts. We can't say, "I don't have the gift of giving, so it's ok for me to live a selfish and stingy life." In the same way, not everyone is blessed with the gift of compassion. Not everyone feels at a deeper level, cares authentically, and naturally comes alongside other people. Does this mean those who don't have the gift of compassion are free to be cold-hearted and insensitive? Of course not! While some have the gift of compassion, we are all called to show tenderness, sensitivity, and mercy.

Compassion is more than a mere desire to help. It is a determined decision to actually help and make an emotional connection, even if only in some small way. Like walking alongside a man, albeit shortly, as he shared his troubled walk through life.

*Glorify God
by Knowing,
Living,
and Proclaiming
our Hope in Christ.*



October 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 9:30 Worship & Communion 11:00 Sunday School 6:00 PM TAG	2 6:00 PM GEMS	3	4 9:45 Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Elders Deacons	5 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team, Men's Bible Study	6	7
8 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School/Prayer 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering, Roberts Group	9 7:00 PM Friendship Class	10 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	11 9:45 Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Council	12 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team, Men's Bible Study	13	14
15 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	16 6:00 PM GEMS	17	18 9:45 Women's Bible Study	19 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team, Men's Bible Study	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 PM Roberts Group	23 7:00 PM Friendship Class	24 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	25 9:45 Women's Bible Study Heartbeat Newsletter Deadline	26 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team, Men's Bible Study	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School Potluck Lunch	30	31	November 4, 2017 Acts Now			



Preaching Series

10/1	The Imitation of Christ, 1 John 2:1-6
10/8	Guest Pastor Jason Hubbard
10/15	Guest Speaker Tass Saada
10/22	The Command to Love, 1 John 2:7-14
10/29	Who or What Do You Love? 1 John 2:15-17

Greeters Schedule

10/1	Karen Smith, Chris Pike
10/8	Herm & Ali Laninga
10/15	Michael & Jenn Boer
10/22	Don & Tena Vanderpol
10/29	Joe Pruitt, Ruth Stadt

Cookie Schedule

10/1	Donna Van Beek, Megan Speyer
10/8	Christine Speyer, Ruth Stadt
10/15	Terry Vander Woude, Tena Vanderpol
10/22	Barb Zylstra, Pat Bosman
10/29	Jenn Boer, Helen Bowman

Serving Assistants

10/1	Clara, Abee, Amber
10/8	Micah, Caleb, Mattea
10/15	Chantel, Maggie, Michal
10/22	Kylie, Zeke, Micah
10/29	Faith, Grace, Amariah

Prayer Room

10/1	Don Vanderpol
10/8	Denise Doezema
10/15	Del Bosman
10/22	Ali Laninga
10/29	Lou Kooistra

Offering Schedule

10/1	General Fund
10/8	General Fund
10/15	Outreach Fund
10/22	General Fund
10/29	Benevolence Fund

Ushering Schedule

10/1	Bud Brouwer, Helen Bowman
10/8	Deloris Perry, Elaine Snapper
10/15	Don Knutson, Ken Wick
10/22	Len Vander Woude, Lou Kooistra
10/29	Joe Pruitt, Helen Bowman

Children & Worship

10/1	Dan Obbink, Amber
10/8	Jen Roberts, Kylie
10/15	Bekah Roberts, Ali Laninga
10/22	Jen Roberts, Mattea
10/29	Diane Button, Mairi

Sunday School Schedule

10/1	Diane Button, Jenn Boer
10/8	Diane Button, Jenn Boer
10/15	Diane Button, Jenn Boer
10/22	Jolene Skovron, Ida Richards
10/29	Jolene Skovron, Ida Richards

**Not Able
to Serve When Scheduled?**
*Please call someone on the list
and make a plan to trade dates.
Thank you for your help!*



Office Remodel Near Completion

Thank you all for the time, energy, skills, and donations towards the office remodel. The main floor office area is complete and I invite the congregation to stop by and visit both Scott and Marjie in their new office spaces. There is also a wonderful meeting room that is available for small groups and general meetings. Envision Mission is settled in their new office upstairs and it has been reported that they are enjoying their updated space. We also took the opportunity to paint the bathrooms and hallways to freshen up the area.

The second floor old office space is still being worked on, but when that is complete we will have three additional classrooms for use. There are some minor details to be finished but the remodel committee is very pleased with the work thus far, and I know that the new office space for Scott and Marjie will be appreciated for a long time.

Thank you once again,

Michael Boer

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for Sept. 2017

By Joe Strong

But God, are two words that the Bible uses to tell us that something good is coming. The passage that comes to mind is Ephesians 2:4 that starts, "But God who is rich in mercy." We find this in other passages in the Bible but I also see this playing out in ministry often. God is always on the move.

I met Craig in January of this year while doing my rounds of visiting different pods in the Whatcom County Jail. He was a little older guy who seemed to have been around the block a few times. We would visit each week and he would tell me that he was finished living his old life and wanted to start a new one. If I could have a dollar for each person who told me that I would be rich, but Craig was different. Over time, I spoke to Craig about our transformational house called Bridges of Hope. It was then that we discovered that we had something in common. Craig was born and raised in the CRC in Lynden and I am a pastor in the same denomination. He told me that his mother had spoken to him of our house.

When Craig was six years old, a tractor ran over him and crushed his pelvic area and nearly killed him. Bones were broken, organs damaged and the doctors had to do many operations. But God kept him alive and Craig be-

came known as the "miracle boy" in the hospital in Bellingham. It took Craig a long time to recuperate. That tag of being a "miracle boy" stayed with Craig and after some years, he started to hate the moniker. He started to act out. He wanted to shake this title. He started taking drugs, drinking and running with the wrong crowd around thirteen or fourteen years old. He dropped out of high school his junior year. From then on, Craig did whatever his heart desired- used drugs, mostly meth and cocaine, while burning through women as if there was no tomorrow.

When I met Craig in January, he was on his fourth marriage and that was not looking well. He is 50 years old. But God heard the prayers of those who love him. Craig started making better choices, and he became a trustee in the jail. He started reading God's Word and sharing this same Word with other inmates. He applied for our Bridges of Hope house and was accepted. When he left jail, he found a home among our other men, got himself a good job, and is attending church. God is doing His great work and has brought back a covenant son. Craig still has a long way to go. So, I want you to pray for Craig. Thank you for your support.

Annual Holiday Bazaar

The thirteenth annual Hope in Christ Church Bazaar will be held in the sanctuary on Friday, November 17 from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm, and on Saturday, November 18 from 9:00am until 4:00 pm.

Please contact Rockelle Ruitter for more information or to reserve a table.



GIVING IN AUGUST 2017

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 4,037	\$ 36,172
General Fund Offerings	\$13,937	\$141,262
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,301</u>	<u>19,646</u>
Total Undesignated Income	16,238	160,908
General Fund Expenses	<u>(15,294)</u>	<u>(165,626)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 945</u>	<u>\$ (4,717)</u>
Total 2017 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 222,173
Year-to-Date Budget for 9 months		\$ 166,630
Total Undesignated Income		<u>160,908</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ (5,722)</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 20,000

PERSPECTIVES CLASS COMING IN JANUARY

“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.

OCTOBERFEST TRIP OPEN TO ALL

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors on the way to Oktoberfest in Leavenworth on Oct. 14. The trip is sponsored by the First CRC 60-plus Club, which will take a bus from the church parking lot early that Saturday morning and return that evening. All are welcome (you don’t have to be 60 or older), but please no unaccompanied children. For more information or to sign up, call Cora Seigman at (360) 318-8715.

VOLUNTEER WITH LOVE INC

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.

Happy Birthday!

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

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA

The Worship Committee of Third CRC will be presenting a Christmas Cantata with orchestra again this year and would like to invite choirs and singers from all area RCA and CRC churches to this combined service. This year Del VandeKerk will be conducting the cantata with Teresa Lensen directing the children’s choir.

- Christmas Choir Cantata date is Sunday, December 3, 4:00 & 6:00 PM.
- Rehearsal schedule: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, (no rehearsal on Nov. 22), Nov. 29, from 7:00-8:30 PM at Third CRC.
- The Cantata this year is “Come to the Manger” by Mark Hayes, which was also performed in 2006 and 2010.
- Dress rehearsal Dec. 3, 2:15-3:30.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or email Scott VandeKieft 360-354-6695, vndkieft@aol.com or contact the worship director at worship@third-church.org.