

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

September 2018 Issue

The Most Excellent Way

By Pastor Scott

1 Corinthians 13 is a beloved chapter of Scripture, known for its emphasis on love. Coming right after telling the church about her need to recognize the distinct contributions of each person to the growth of the body, Paul goes on to make a startling statement: *the most excellent way is love.*

Love isn't just a good idea. It isn't a preferred way to live. It is the way of the Kingdom of God. Love is to be the guiding value and action of the people of God. But what is love? It may be easier to understand this by asking a different question, "What is the opposite of love?" The opposite of love isn't hate, as many suppose. The opposite of love is pride. Pride is the love of self; focus on self. When one's life is self-focused there isn't the opportunity to focus on and care for others. Love at its core is about considering others' needs above your own.

So, what would it look like to rewrite 1Corinthians 13:1-8 by inverting everything in order to see the passage anew? Consider the following proposal:

If I have simple gifts and am not eloquent but I serve others, I am something in God's sight - but the world doesn't see me.

If I don't understand all the nuances of contemporary events and am ignorant of political and international law, and if I can't see how to move the obstacles before me, but I encourage those around me and care for the weak, I am someone in God's kingdom.

If I don't give everything I have to my job and if I try to toot my own horn, but I obey the leaders over me and submit to their governance, then I gain everything.

Pride is impatient. Pride is unkind. Pride wants what others have. Pride craves recognition. Pride wants attention. Pride will justify its actions instead of submitting to the leaders of the church and world. Pride looks at itself and its own desires. Pride puts others down and seeks its own way. It gets angry and can list all the ways another has offended. Pride uses any means to win and hates to lose. Pride doesn't care about another. It uses people and ultimately it will break you.

The call of Scripture is to deny ourselves and become a servant of God and others. When we learn to love like this, then we will truly be on the narrow way and will be experiencing the most excellent way. Do you want to walk in the ways of the Kingdom? Then learn to love by learning to displace pride from your life.



Friendship Class

By Tanya Obbink

“Wow! That rocked!”

“Why this? I’m done! I can’t go on.”

“Ugh! Not again!”

“That is amazing!”

“Does anyone care about me?”

Emotions. We all feel them. They can overwhelm us, good or bad. The Psalms are full of people writing down their emotions, expressing them to God. And the Psalms are a wonderful resource for us to learn from! This year in Friendship we will be studying eight different Psalms and the emotions they express. We’ll study how the Psalms are an expression of trust in God’s love and how we also can share our own feelings, honestly and freely to God, as the Psalm writers did. The title of our study is The Psalms – God Cares How I Feel.

One emotion we all experience is pain. It hurts. Cuts deep. In the Together Class we’ll be completing a unit study called Living with Pain. This study will include topics such as: (1) Why Pain? (2) Why, God? (3) God Is with Us and (4) We Have Hope.

This coming year the Friendship and Together classes will once again be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, September thru May. Class time will continue to be from 7:00 - 8:15pm.

How can you help?

1. Pray! Pray that the Holy Spirit would be at work in the lives of the people at Friendship, convicting them of God’s truths, molding their lives for His glory, and growing their trust and faith in Him. And pray that the mentors would speak God’s truth in understandable ways and show God’s love in all their interactions.

2. Be a substitute mentor. Sing, pray, help share God’s word, eat snacks, laugh and enjoy conversation. There are a few mentors gone this September, and typically throughout the year the same is true. A few people to call on for help when needed would be great!

3. Be a substitute driver. When mentors are on vacation, the friends they typically provide transportation for still need a ride. Can you help drive on an on-call basis?

4. Large Stuffed Lamb/Sheep. Do you have one we can borrow on January 14?

All mentors and drivers need to sign a safe church document and have a background check completed. If you’re interested in helping please contact Tanya Obbink.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friendship and Together Classes.



Happy
Birthday
GEMS!!



By Darlys Recker

This year GEMS celebrates its 60th year. Our local GEMS club at HIC is part of a global ministry that ministers to the girls of our community and girls around the world to learn what it means to live a radically faithful life for Christ; acting justly, loving mercy and work humbly with Him! We are seeing some amazing things happen through this ministry and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, both your prayer and financial support, and to let you know a little more about the HIC GEMS ministry. Because of your support, including a generous anonymous donation, we had 15 girls and 2 counselors attend GEMS’ Camp at Lake Retreat Christian Conference Center in June with no expense to the families. I was also able to attend the GEMS Annual Leadership Conference at Redeemer College, Hamilton ON. Both events were a blessing to those who attended and will continue to be a blessing throughout our lives as we grow to know how to walk humbly with our Lord.

During the past year, we had a total of 22 girls attend GEMS with a regular attendance of 16. We already know of at least 3 new girls. If you know of any girls in grades 1-8 that might be interested in GEMS be sure to let them know of the opportunity for fun evenings with friends. See me if you would like additional information.

This year Amber Obbink will be a CIT for GEMS (Counselor in Training). We also have Hildred Abee joining the counselor team with Rockelle Ruitter, Jenn Boer, Tricia Bravener, Jolene Skovron and myself. We covet your prayers; we know this is God’s work and pray for his blessing on our decisions.

The first GEMS theme in 1960 was “Be Thankful to God.” We are thankful to Him for His grace and mercy to us and in gratitude, want to share this blessing with our neighbors and reach out to girls everywhere. This year our theme is “Be A Blessing” based on 2 Corinthians 9:8, “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

In 2006, GEMS went global, expanding its global vision to reach girls everywhere by organizing clubs in Africa along with building the Esther School as an outreach ministry. Our local club has continued to raise funds to support the Esther School and we have “Change for Change” jars to collect \$ to support the Esther School. If anyone needs a jar, just ask a GEM! This year, the Esther School is starting the 5th grade class and adds another grade each year. You can find more information on the Esther School at their website: <https://www.estherschool.org/>

Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month I interviewed Karen Funk. I didn't realize that Karen was a local gal, who was born in Bellingham and lived in Lynden for the first few years of her life. She was Karen Assink, and she attended school in Lynden for her first three years and later graduated from Meridian High School. Karen and I started playing "Dutch Bingo," and we discovered we knew several people in common since we both had Lynden connections.

Karen's father bought a farm in the Laurel area, and Karen enjoyed living out in the country. She had an older brother who helped with the farm chores, but Karen also assisted with some of those duties. She had two younger sisters, and all of her siblings currently live in this area so they can get together frequently.

Working for the Big Daddy drive-in on lower Holly Street was part of Karen's career. Georgia Pacific kept them busy with large orders for hamburgers and milkshakes to go. She also worked for 20 years for Village Lighting. It was pretty much on-the-job training. While there she learned some skills doing repair work on lamps.

Karen was married to Erick Funk who worked for a Volkswagen dealer in Bellingham for 40 years as a service manager. He was the best husband ever, but he passed away of a heart attack in 2001, right after 9/11, which was pretty devastating to her. After the passing of her husband, Karen volunteered at St. Joseph's Hospital for about ten years.

Karen was blessed to have three children, two boys and a girl, and they all live in Bellingham. She also is grandmother to three grandchildren, and she has four great grandchildren who live in the area.

Before attending our church, Karen and her husband attended St. John's Lutheran Church on Cornwall Avenue. Her husband had been really involved there, and it was hard for Karen to attend there after he had passed away. The church was very lacking in children, and Karen enjoyed seeing young children in church. She initially tried some larger churches, but upon coming to our church she really found it to be a friendly church, and the people seemed to be genuine. She started attending about the time Pastor Gord was leaving for Operation Desert Storm. She enjoys watching the kids in church since children were lacking in her previous church.

Last year Karen developed breast cancer, and a lump was removed, and she went through radiation and chemo. She is hopeful and prays that her cancer will not return. Interestingly enough, her hair, which was previously straight, came back curly, and she is enjoying that.

When asked if she has any hobbies, Karen responded that she likes to read, and she enjoys her flower garden, which she attempts to keep weed free.

We're thankful that Karen is attending our church and that she feels comfortable with our members. She is getting involved in setting up the elements for communion, together with a couple other people. If you haven't met this pleasant woman, say "hello" to her.



Connie's Purse

By Ida Richards

If you spent any time with Connie, you knew about her purse. It is one of my most favorite memories of her. That girl was always prepared for about anything! I can remember when we had an impromptu birthday celebration. We created a 'cake' and a candle, but we forgot the matches. Connie's response? "I've got matches!" And into her purse she would dive! If you had a headache, she had something for that. Needed a bandaids? Tums? A rubberband? Lip balm? Toothpick? Safety pin? Dental Floss? A quick 'Let me see if I have that' would be heard from Connie. Without fail! We often joked we should send her to be in the audience at "The Price is Right!" She would have been a sure winner!

But this got me thinking about her purse. Her purse was like her heart. She tucked so very much into it. If you needed her, she was always ready. She would help in any way she could, with what she had, for anyone who was in need. She would take the time to see how she could help; to look in her 'heart purse' of gifts and self-sacrifice for what was needed. When we first moved to Bellingham, she made time in her life to welcome me into her home. She certainly sacrificed for my family when I was in need of loving childcare, which made it possible for me to work free of worry. If you showed up at her door, she had tea water ready to boil and usually a choice of goodies to share! Along with a listening ear. Walking the beach and looking for treasures, she would take the time to listen, and to share her heart. She also loved having fun, delighting us with her card-playing skills!

Her 'heart purse' had encouragement, compassion, kindness, goodness, and joy in such a generous supply. Just like her physical purse, she prepared her life and heart to be ready to serve. She filled it up with God's Word and His promises. She lived with His songs in her heart. And always tucked in every corner was her laughter, wrapped in a hug.

Connie, I'll miss your purse.

Items of Interest from August's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

1. Discussion Topics

A. Article: "How to Spot Sexual Abuse in Your Church"

B. Article: "Active Shooter and Violent Intruder Response": Pick a drill date, possibly lock doors on church parking lot side, also discussed fire alarms

C. How can we make new regular attenders feel welcomed and a part of our church family? Possibilities: Invite them to join a small group; Invite them to serve coffee on Sundays or participate in a soup lunch after church; Invite them to sit with you; other ideas

D. Chapter 1, "What Makes a Leader Great," Russ Crosson, Chapter 2 for next month.

2. A motion was made and approved for paying \$583.68 for parking lot signs. Price will be about \$56.57 less if Love INC isn't interested in having a sign.

3. Hospitality Team: All congregation birthday dinner November 9th (tables assigned by birthday month, children included).

4. Education teams: Diane Button recruiting teachers for Sunday school classes.

5. Family Promise on September 2-9. Ali and Lorraine will continue to organize.

6. The Story startup date: Sept. 9.

7. Terry discussed volunteer opportunities for the women's winter shelter at Fountain Community Church.

Giving in July 2018

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 5,269	\$ 32,650
General Fund Offerings	\$17,801	\$156,876
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>4,187</u>	<u>18,177</u>
Total Undesignated Income	21,988	175,053
General Fund Expenses	<u>(17,252)</u>	<u>(145,223)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 4,736</u>	<u>\$ 29,830</u>
Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 224,758
Year-to-Date Budget for 8 months		\$ 149,839
Total Undesignated Income		<u>175,053</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 25,214</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 17,500

Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship

Begins October 18th!!

Welcome to all men to an enjoyable, weekly Bible study and fellowship on Thursdays from 7:00pm-9:00pm. We meet in the Administration Building on the first floor. This is a friendly group who would love to welcome you!

Questions? Call Lanny 360-739-5514.



Deacon's Digest

By Elaine Snapper

Scott Emory appeared at the meeting on Wed., Aug. 1, 2018, and asked the deacons to consider changing the time commitment of our support to the Outreach ministries we historically vote on each year (currently Envision, Lighthouse Mission, Streetcorners, Cascade Connection and Seafarers) up to an indefinite amount of time, assuming there is no specific reason to stop supporting them. This enables them to better anticipate their budgets for the upcoming year.

Terry shared information that she received at a meeting that she and Doug Scholten attended regarding Shower Connect. The Lighthouse Mission has requested to use our parking lot once per month for their portable shower trailer.

Don Knutson will train Vicki Seim, Donna Van Beek and Karen Funk on communion preparation.

It was approved to support a pastor in India or Nepal through Project 92. It was approved to make a donation towards vehicle repair. A donation was given through Love, Inc. to assist a family in transition.

Budget requests will need to be sent out in early September. Funds were allotted for Scott and Jen to attend a conference for the Association of Certified Counselors.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Communion & Worship	3	4	5 7:00 PM Elders Deacons	6 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study	7	8
FAMILY PROMISE WEEK Sept. 2-9						
9 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Sun School 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering	10 7:00 PM Friendship Class	11 6:00 PM Richards' Bible Study	12 7:00 PM Council	13 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	14	15
16 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School	17 7:00 PM GEMS	18	19	20 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	21	22
23 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 4:30 PM Roberts Group	24 7:00 PM Friendship Class	25 6:00 PM Richards' Bible Study 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	26 7:00 PM Worship Planning Team	27 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	28	29
30 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School Potluck Lunch						

Happy Birthday !

3 Lorraine Brouwer
6 Kyle Sentkowski
6 Chantel Obbink
11 Jan Scholten

11 Barbara Zylstra
15 Troy Jones
16 Abigail Cunningham
16 Rochelle Senti
19 Isaac Speyer

24 Ellie Roberts
25 Jennifer Boer
28 Aaron Speyer
30 Jonathan Senti



September 2018

Offering Schedule

- 2 Kingdom Advancement
- 9 Kingdom Advancement
- 16 Outreach Fund
- 23 Kingdom Advancement
- 30 Benevolence Fund

Prayer Room

- 2 Don Vanderpol
- 9 Terry Vander Woude
- 16 Len Vander Woude
- 23 Del Bosman
- 30 Lorraine Brouwer

Greeters Schedule

- 2 Gloria & Darryl Groothuis
- 9 Pat & Del Bosman
- 16 Barb & Joe Zylstra
- 23 Faye & Jerry Hop
- 30 Avis & Jay Kaemingk

Serving Assistants

- 2 Maggie, Mattea, Kylie
- 9 Abee, Grace, Amariah
- 16 Amber, Caleb, Clara
- 23 Brenna, Chantel, Michal
- 30 Micah, Faith, Zeke
- 30 Lorraine Brouwer

Sermon Titles & Scripture

- 2 *Hosea and the Marriage Covenant* - Hosea 1, 14
- 9 *God's Four-Word Promise*—Luke 1:26-33, The Story Ch. 22
- 16 *A Dozen Names for Jesus' Ministry*—Matt. 3-4; Mark 1-3; Luke 8, The Story Ch. 23
- 23 *No Ordinary Teacher*—Mark 4:1-25, The Story Ch.24
- 30 *Jesus: Light and Life of God*—John 8:12-30; 11:17-27, The Story Ch. 25

Cookie Schedule

- 2 Karen Smith, Elaine Snapper, Christine Speyer
- 9 Ruth Stadt, Donna Van Beek
- 16 Terry Vander Woude, Tena Vanderpol, Barb Zylstra
- 23 Jennifer Boer, Pat Bosman
- 30 Helen Bowman, Alice Brakke, Lorraine Brouwer

Ushering Schedule/*Foyer

- 2 Helen Bowman, *Ken Wick
- 9 Bud Brouwer, *Joe Pruitt
- 16 Elaine Snapper, Deloris Perry, /*Mike Button
- 23 Len Vander Woude, *Lou Kooistra
- 30 Don Knutson, *Joe Zylstra

Sunday School Council Observer

- 2 None
- 9 Jerry Hop
- 16 Ev Kooistra
- 23 Joe Pruitt
- 30 Ida Richards



Would you like to serve in one of these areas, but have not been added to the list yet? Please call the church office at 360-733-6177 and let us know. It would be great to add you in! If your name is not on the birthday list for your month, please let us know that as well. Our desire is to include everyone who attends regularly, so please help us to keep our lists up-to-date.