

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

October 2018 Issue

Crying to Pray

By Pastor Scott

In the middle of our morning prayer time today, my youngest son broke down in tears. Let me back up a bit. Each morning after reading the Word, we spend a few minutes in prayer as a family. We pray for medical needs from Samaritan Ministries, lift up some foreign missionaries and pastors, and ask God to do something that we learned in the Scripture. For the last few days, our youngest (4 years old) has volunteered to pray the Samaritan Ministries requests for babies that are being born.

This is generally a parents' delight, although our son was recently adopted and we have to feed him the prayer word by word. So, after having him pray for the last few days, I told him that someone else needed the chance to pray and he would need to listen today. The prayer began, and after the first person prayed, he started bawling - with tons of tears and such. The kids finished the prayer, then with all of us looking at the spectacle, my wife asked, "Why are you crying?" He managed to get the words out, "I pray."

So, what is the point of telling you all of this? It struck me that many of us are quite different than my son. If we miss a time of prayer, or a chance to pray, it doesn't break our hearts. We just go on like nothing significant was omitted. But should we? Shouldn't we rather mourn when we miss the opportunity to commune with our Heavenly Father? Shouldn't we grieve over not being able to bring the joys and sorrows of others to the only Father who has the power to answer, and whose compassions are new every morning?

As I sat at the table this morning, I was struck by just how far I have yet to go before I will become a person of prayer. Prayer is still a thing I must do instead of being a thing I need to do to survive, or better yet, a thing that actually defines my life and brings me joy.

Maybe what the church in the West needs more than plans to reach the world, or great conferences, or powerful worship, is a heart that breaks for prayer.

Imagine how the world would be different if every believer in every church was crying out for more opportunities to pray with and for others. Picture what would happen if even one church in your community was dedicated to praying for the Kingdom of God to come to Earth as it exists in Heaven. Would that make a difference? Would God withhold his blessing from that city? Envision what would happen if even ten righteous people were willing to gather every week and pray for the church they attend, the elders who minister, the deacons who serve, and for those who benefit from these ministries. Would it affect the character and the results of the ministry?

So let me ask, "Shouldn't our hearts be crying to pray?" Jesus invites us to pay attention to the words we hear, and the stories that are told (Mk 4:24). Would you commit to joining other brothers and sisters every Sunday morning at 8:15 a.m. to pray for the church and the world? Oh, the blessing it would be for our lives, if our hearts were broken when we couldn't make it to prayer, rather than thinking that nothing much had been lost.

As we finished up our family devotion this morning, my wife fed the words to my son and he prayed them in his small, little voice. And when he finished, he was beaming; joy had returned to his face and his body. Such is the result when God's people meet their Lord. And, Oh the smile that came over his Father's face.



Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for September 2018

By Joe Strong

It poured down rain most of the Sunday morning, the day of our baptisms. We had been able to use one of the shelters by the lake in which to do our service. When it came to baptize the 2 infants and 2 adults, the sky opened up and the sun shone for a brief time and everybody smiled. Baptisms are always triumphant moments in any church. Afterwards, we had a carne asada and members lingered well into the afternoon. It was a great day.

I recently received a gift for preaching in another church. I always find someone to give it to. This time Yazil, the YWAM volunteer, was the recipient. Upon receiving this gift, she nearly cried because she was in great need. She immediately filled her car up with gas and set out to buy some books that she needed for a course. On her way to Bellingham, she passed a man with a sign asking for help. She then drove a second time around the block and looked at this guy again. The 3rd time around she stopped and asked the man what was happening in his life. He replied that his wife had a disability and that they needed food. Yazil invited him to go with her and went and bought

this man some groceries for his family and prayed with him. I really like this young woman. Our church's name in Lynden is Amor Viviente which means Living Love.

After spending all afternoon in the Bellingham Jail visiting inmates, I attended the prayer meeting in our church in Lynden on Monday evening. There, 5 faithful women meet and hold up the world, all the members of our church etc. before the throne of our Father. They knew I was coming and prepared a little birthday surprise for me. They knew that I had just turned 66 years old a few days before. One after the other they told me how much they appreciated me. I was touched. They told me not to think of retiring. Then they treated me to my favorite meal, mole(mow-lay), a wonderful spicy sauce with chicken. I told them that the idea of retiring has not crossed my mind. Just keep that mole coming ladies.

God is blessing this ministry. Our churches are doing outreach. They are growing. Many men in the jail are coming to know Jesus. Our Bridges of Hope transformational house is always a challenge. Thank you for your prayer support and financial giving. Pray that our Mt. Vernon church can find another SS teacher.

NWHM

701 W. Blackburn Rd.,
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273



Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair

The fourteenth annual Hope in Christ Church Craft and Vendor Fair will be held in the sanctuary on Friday, November 16 from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm, and on Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm.

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

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 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. 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.



From our Hospitality Committee...

Birthday Dinner November 9, 2018

Please sign-up for the Birthday Dinner to be held on Friday Nov 9th at 6 p.m.

There is a sign-up poster in the foyer.

Each table will have a hostess assigned to make a menu for their table.

Each table (two tables can work together if desired!) will generate ideas to come up with some form of special number, skit, game etc. to share with everyone.

A big thank you to Christine Speyer for making the beautiful sign-up poster.

This is deeply appreciated!

Whatcom Community News

LC HIGH FALL PLAY: Tickets go on sale Monday, Oct. 1, for the Lynden Christian High School fall play "Pride and Prejudice" by Kate Hamill (adapted from the novel by Jane Austen). You can fill out a ticket order form at the Central Office or talk to a box office representative Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Central Office. Tickets also are available at the door for the performances on Oct. 11, 13, 19, and 20 at 7 p.m. in the Worship and Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students/seniors 62 and older.

ASTRONOMY CLASS FOR ADULTS: Harlan Kredit will be teaching astronomy classes for adults on Monday, Oct. 1, and Oct. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. in room 112 (the science lab) at Lynden Christian High School. The cost is \$20. RSVP to Ezra Stump at estump@lynchs.org. Learn about the tremendous advances in astronomy and space travel, and using digital resources see some of the astronomical successes, failures, and challenges of the future. Weather permitting, they will use telescopes to look at the night sky.

GOSPEL CONCERT: Enjoy a wonderful southern Gospel concert featuring the Down East Boys and Evergreen 3 on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Nooksack Valley Reformed Church, 602 E. Second St., Nooksack. There will be a freewill offering and refreshments following. Doors open at 6. For more information, call Donna at (360) 966-5165.

COME ENJOY A TASTE OF PERSPECTIVES: Pastors and Christian leaders are invited to hear about "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement," a course that expands mission vision and biblical understanding about God's heart for the world. Four speakers in frontier missions will give "A Taste of Perspectives" on Nov. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5942 Portal Way, Ferndale (at the back property in Quall Hall). Please RSVP by Oct. 20 by e-mailing durandalewis-marchell@users.smore.com.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month you'll get to meet Vicki Tyner-Seim, who has been attending our church the past couple of years. I find her entrance into this world very interesting. Vicki's parents were living in the Seattle area, and apparently, she didn't give her parents much notice that she was ready to come into this world. In order to get to Harborview Hospital, they had to board a ferry in the Elliott Bay area. Time was of the essence, and an ambulance was called. The ambulance driver, who had fathered eight kids but never witnessed the birth of any of them, was called into action and he assisted in the birth of Vicki. The mother and baby did fine. The captain of the ferry, which was named Colloquin, wanted some glory for his ferry, and he tried to convince Vicki's mother that the newborn baby girl should be named after his ferry, but Vicki's mother said, "no way" and she named her Vicki, which is a lot easier to say and even spell.

Vicki attended different schools in the Seattle area, and graduated from high school in 1966. She was married the following year, and that marriage lasted 18 years, but they drifted apart, and they were divorced over 20 years ago.

To further her education, she attended Everett Community College, studying Early Childhood Development. She was hoping to become a teacher's aide but was unable to find a job in that field. Instead she became a school bus driver and she really enjoyed that job, but eventually the thought of being responsible for other peoples' lives scared her, and she felt too overwhelmed with that to continue, so she quit that job even though they were begging her to come back.

Among other jobs that Vicki had, was working at a truck stop at Donna's BP by the naval base in the Seattle area. She was a cashier and cook there. She and her husband also owned an antique store together for about 15 years. She enjoyed her internship as a teacher's aide the most. She worked with those of varying intellectual levels, including classrooms with first and seventh graders and special ed.

Vicki and her husband produced two offspring. She had a son who lives in the Lynnwood area, and he and his wife have three children. Vicki has a daughter who lives in Whatcom County, and she is the mother of two chil-

dren. This makes Vicki a grandmother of five children, and she also has two great grandchildren. She is blessed to live within a mile or two of the great grandchildren, and she is able to see them frequently. The oldest great grandchild is two, and the baby is about six months old. Vicki is very proud of her grandchildren and great grandchildren, as any grandmother should be.

Other relatives of Vicki include a younger sister, who is about two years younger than Vicki. She battled cancer and is currently living with her husband in Edmonds. She recently joined a church, which makes Vicki very happy. Vicki also had one older brother, but he died in a trucking accident at the age of 40. He was taken to the Harborview Hospital at that time. His wife very generously gave all of his money to the trauma center at Harborview Hospital.

Vicki has lived in Bellingham about seven years. She lived in an apartment for a while and she also was at a treatment center for a time where she met Mark and Bill who attend church at Hope in Christ. When I asked her how the three of them happened to come to our church, she said that they all felt like they should attend a church. Mark thumbed through a phone book and he saw Hope in Christ listed. He said, "that's it." It's close, so the first time they attended they all walked to our church. When I asked Vicki how she likes our church, I couldn't believe all the accolades. She thinks it is wonderful, homey, and very welcoming. She has been greeted with smiles. People are very encouraging for her spiritual needs. She just can't say enough good things about it, and she wished she could say more. She feels she is fed the word of God here. Vicki is involved in the advanced Friendship class, and she has been attending the Tuesday night women's Bible study, and she is enjoying the study of *The Story*. She has recently been recruited to help with the set-up of the communion elements. At the time of the printing of this article, Vicki is following her doctor's orders and taking care of a health issue that has just become known. Please pray for her health, and look for updates in the coming weeks on ways to pray more specifically for Vicki's condition.

Remembering the names of attenders at our church is difficult for Vicki, but she usually remembers faces. If you haven't met Vicki, say "hello," but don't be offended if she doesn't remember your name the next time you see her. Vicki, we're glad that you're a part of our church!

Deacon's Digest

By Elaine Snapper

All of the deacons were present for the meeting on September 5, 2018.

An update was given on funds donated to Love, Inc. for a family in an emergency situation.

Love, Inc. is requesting baskets for their annual auction. An announcement was to be placed in the bulletin to see if someone was willing to come up with a basket or donation of some kind.

October is Pastor Appreciation month. It was suggested we remind the congregation of that fact.

Funds have been donated to benevolence in memory of Connie Knutson.

Terry was going to get further information regarding Life Line Screening 's request to use our facilities in March, 2019.

Lisa will be attending the Redemption Training class sponsored by Love, Inc. at the end of Sept./early Oct.

Terry and Lisa will be attending the Lighthouse Mission's annual meeting Sept. 25 at the Squalicum Boathouse.

Budget requests were reviewed. There was a discussion regarding long-term support of Outreach Ministries.

Interfaith is sponsoring a winter coat drive in October. Lisa will provide a box for donations.

Members of our church are asked to check their closets for used coats or purchase gently used coats to donate to the winter coat drive of Love, Inc. Coats are to be brought to our church and placed in the box that is provided.

Items of Interest from September's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

1. Deacons discussed the meeting for Classis Pacific Northwest. Attending will be: Don Recker (elder), Terry Vander Woude (deacon), also Ev Kooistra, Pastor Scott Roberts.

2. Hospitality Team: All congregation birthday dinner November 9th (tables assigned by birthday month, children included). A sign-up board is in the foyer.

3. Vitality Team Seminar: Discussed upcoming Tena Crosby conference on Oct 5 & 6. An announcement will be made to the congregation soon, and council will begin to tell their district members about it.

4. New photo directory: Brian Koning will take photos, Faye Hop will help. Photos could be taken after church one Sunday.

5. Sep 30th potluck: Presentation of "Believe" Sunday school study and purchasing of books.

6. Discussion of budget items.

Giving in August 2018

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 1,102	\$ 33,752
General Fund Offerings	\$17,237	\$174,113
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>698</u>	<u>18,875</u>
Total Undesignated Income	17,935	192,988
General Fund Expenses	<u>(18,280)</u>	<u>(163,503)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (345)</u>	<u>\$ 29,485</u>
Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 224,758
Year-to-Date Budget for 9 months		\$ 168,568
Total Undesignated Income		<u>192,988</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 24,420</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 17,500



Celebrate!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Lis Van Harten

I've lived on both sides of the fence. I began life on one side and stayed there for several decades. In fact, of all the folks who attend church about 99% of them are on that side—the PS (pew sitter) side. As a PS, I faithfully attended church. I went through Sunday School, Catechism, and Calvinettes (that dates me). I participated in young couples' group, small groups, Coffee Break, and weekend retreats. I've attended umpteen committee meetings, served and cleaned up too many meals to count, and taught classes for 4 to 14 year olds. I was very engaged in church life but very unaware of the pastor.

My interactions with the pastor (they've all been men) were very limited. There were the tweaks on the nose (when I was very young) and handshakes after the service. There was pre-marriage counseling, visits before the kids were baptized, and a couple of hospital calls. In one church the pastor occasionally joined the worship committee I served on.

I don't even remember thinking much about the pastor (embarrassing to admit now). He was just there. He preached on Sunday which, as the bad joke goes, was the only day he really worked. I had no idea what he did with his time during the week, the pressures he was under, the fishbowl he and his family lived in, the 24/7 nature of his work, etc. etc. etc.

I do remember hearing that someone put a turkey in his car one Christmas. I thought that was very strange. Why couldn't the pastor buy his own turkey?

In 2000, I moved to the other side of the fence. After farming for a time, my husband was ordained and went to his first church. I was now another kind of PS – pastor's spouse. This was an eye-opening experience. Ministry is a wonderful calling filled with blessings, but it's challenging. I could list all sorts of things pastors and their families experience but I won't. That's not the point of this blog post. Most pew sitters have no idea of what the pastor's life is like. Often this leads to a "taking for granted" attitude, rather than one of appreciation, toward our pastor and his or her spouse and family. I was guilty of this for too many years.

Every person needs to feel appreciated. Pastors, and their spouses, are no exception. I remember getting movie tickets in the mail. No note, just tickets. It brought tears to my eyes. A small thing? Some would think so, but to us it was huge.

If you're a pastor, I encourage you to print this article in your next newsletter. If you're a pew sitter, I encourage you to become an encourager to your pastor and his/her family. How?

A turkey in the car.

A ride in your combine.

A casserole.

A note of thanks.

A verbal, "Thank you."

An offer to babysit the kids.

It doesn't have to be a big thing to be a big deal!

<https://network.crcna.org/church-admin-finance/it-doesnt-have-be-big-thing-be-big-deal>

Happy October Birthdays!

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

October 2018

Offering Schedule

- 7 Kingdom Advancement
- 14 Kingdom Advancement
- 21 Outreach Fund
- 28 Kingdom Advancement

Prayer Room

- 7 Ken Wick
- 14 Chuck Dean
- 21 Denise Doezema
- 28 Jay Kaemingk

Greeters Schedule

- 7 Helen Bowman, Lisa Oppenhuizen
- 14 Deloris Perry, Joe Pruitt
- 21 Lou & Ev Kooistra
- 28 Dave & Ida R., Junior Johnson

Serving Assistants

- 7 Maggie, Amariah, AnaMaria
- 14 Abee, Caleb, Kylie
- 21 Grace, Mattea, Michal
- 28 Brenna, Chantel, Clara

Sermon Titles & *The Story* Chapters

- 7 *A Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*; The Story Ch 26
- 14 *The Walk to Emmaus*; The Story Ch. 27
- 21 *The Unstoppable First Disciples*; The Story, Ch. 28
- 28 *Extending the Kingdom of God*; The Story Ch.29

Cookie Schedule

- 7 Lisa DeSalvo, Denise Doezema
- 14 Faye Hop, Avis Kaemingk
- 21 Marilyn Kaiser, Melissa Koning
- 28 Ev Kooistra, Ali Laninga

Ushering Schedule/*Foyer

- 7 *Bud Brouwer, Lou Kooistra
- 14 *Don Knutson, Ken Wick
- 21 *Joe Pruitt, Deloris Perry
- 28 *Joe Zylstra, Barb Zylstra

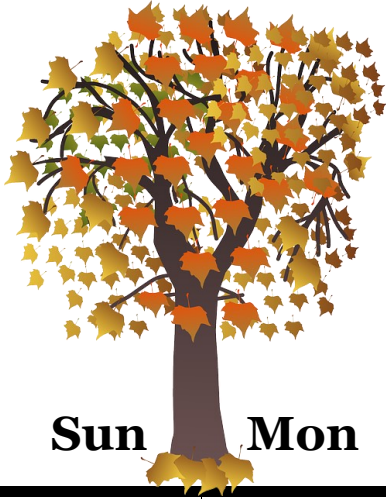
Sunday School Council Observer

- 7 Lisa DeSalvo
- 14 Elaine Snapper
- 21 Rockelle Ruitter
- 28 Terry Vander Woude



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





October 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 6:30 PM GEMS	2	3 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Elders Deacons	4 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	5 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM Tena Crosby Seminar	6 9:00 Am- 3:30 PM Tena Crosby Seminar
7 9:30 Worship & Communion 11:00 Sunday School	8 7:00 PM Friendship Class	9 6:30 PM Boer's Small Group	10 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Council	11 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	12 GEMS Sleepover	13
14 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering & Roberts Group 7 PM Laninga	15 6:30 PM GEMS	16 6:00 PM Richards' Small Group	17 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study	18 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team, Men's Bible Study	19	20
21 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	22 7:00 PM Friendship Class	23 6:30 PM Boer's Small Group	24 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship Planning Team	25 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team, Men's Bible Study	26 GEMS Ice Cream Party	27
28 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 PM Roberts Group 7 PM Laninga Group	29 6:30 PM GEMS	30	31 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study			