



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

January 2019 Issue

Trials, Suffering and the Bible

By Pastor Scott Roberts

We all face hard times in life. Suffering, difficulty, hardship, trials, pain – these are universal realities that every person will face in life at some point. Sure, some people seem to have painless lives and nothing ever goes wrong, but with enough time, something will happen which will bring about angst in the life of every single person. On the flip side, others seem to face an inordinate amount of adversity in their life, they are the proverbial Job story, yet their life never seems to take the turn so that the blessings of God become obvious again.



Most of us would prefer the former life to the latter for ourselves and those we know. But no matter which life we, or our friends, are given by God, there are a number of things that are helpful for us to remember:

**First, the one who suffers
needs to be honest about the pain.**

People need to be permitted to cry and/or discuss the real things that are happening in life. A short glance through the Psalms reveals feelings of abandonment, sadness, sorrow, betrayal, etc. As Christians, we need to cultivate a place and relationships where honesty is valued, and people can speak out of the hardship they experience. This will make many uncomfortable, but it doesn't need to. We have all felt these emotions; they aren't wrong, nor are they right, they just are and the first step to finding healing is admitting what is wrong.

**Second, the one whose life is hard
needs to be encouraged to pray to the Lord
about their struggles.**

When people start to open up to another person, it is generally a sign that they are ready to tell God what they feel. Encourage people whose lives are difficult to speak the truth to God. All too often, people feel that they cannot speak that candidly to the Lord and so they pretend to be pious, but God isn't pleased with hypocrisy. He hates white-washed tombs.

**Third, those suffering often forget
about God's character.**

Remind them of who God is. Read them Exodus 34:6-7, or Psalm 13:5-6 or another suitable passage that

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reminds them that God is good. When one can recall the goodness of God in the midst of the trial, the foundation is being set for turning hardship to hope. When one remembers who God is even in the painful things of life, it isn't "pie in the sky" thinking. Rather it is the bold declaration that God is good even now, and that in the pain God is still working out his good for myself and the world.

**Fourth, remind them
of Romans 8:28-29 or James 1:2-4.**

These verses teach us that God is working all things for our good, specifically to the further formation of the character of Christ in his people. This may not be easy to admit and depending on the level of pain involved and the specifics of the situation it may take quite a bit of time before someone is able to admit this, but don't shy away from speaking the truth. At the same time, don't push and demand that a person admits this truth. As counselors to one another, our job is to proclaim truth, not force belief.

**Fifth, ask the one suffering
how their experience will allow them
to have compassion on others.**

Philippians 1:12-14 records Paul's reflection upon his imprisonments as furthering the gospel. 2Corinthians 1:4 says that our suffering prepares us to minister to others. By helping one in hardship shift their gaze to others in pain, we are taking on a more Christlike approach to life – a life lived for the benefit and service of others.

These five steps are the basic things that a person wanting to use the Bible to counsel and encourage those in hardship must keep in mind. Not every conversation will contain all five of these components, but over the course of a series of contacts, the helpful Christian ought to cover them- being thoughtful about the right words at the right time.

Women's Shelter

By Terry Vander Woude

It has been a very busy December for the Women's Cold Weather Shelter hosted by Fountain Community Church. They are having an average of 42 women, and a few children, spending every night in the recreation room of their building. Our congregation is helping the shelter by providing three crockpots of chili and five dozen rolls every Wednesday evening. So far, they have had only one evening when they didn't have exactly enough chili and rolls, with nothing to spare. Our deacons have provided extra cans of chili for those evenings when they run out and do not have enough chili to feed everyone.



If you would like to participate in this program of feeding the needy women of our community, please sign up on the poster in the foyer. If you cannot deliver the chili yourself on the Wednesday evening you have signed up, contact Terry Vander Woude. On Thursdays of each week the crockpots are picked up from Fountain Community Church and returned to our church.

Deacons Digest

By Elaine Snapper

The deacons would like to thank those who took a gift tag from the giving tree in our church and purchased a gift for the men who reside at the Lighthouse Mission. Also, thanks for the toiletry items, hats and gloves, etc. that were also donated. The items will be much appreciated by the recipients at the mission.

We are continuing to bring chili and rolls each Wednesday to Fountain Community Church to serve approximately 40 women. Terry has been working on signing up people to bring these food items.

The deacons are planning a movie night at our church. Friday, Feb. 22, is the date that has tentatively been selected for the event. A family-friendly movie will be shown at 7 p.m., and popcorn and other snacks will be available. Put this date on your calendar.

Our church has offered to get involved with the Shower Connection project through the Lighthouse Mission. The program is just getting underway. Stay tuned for further developments with our church's involvement with that project.

Items of Interest from December's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

1 A movie night is being planned. The date is yet to be determined.

2 The Worship Team needs one more sound person.

3 The Hospitality Team is planning a potluck lunch for Dec. 30th. A ladies' tea social is coming soon.

4 The congregational meeting minutes were approved. A motion was approved to have a letter explaining the proper procedures for conducting congregational voting put in the Heartbeat. The letter will be written by Ida Richards and accepted by Council. There was discussion regarding the oversight of having long-time regular attenders who are not official members having the privilege to vote. The congregational meeting went well overall.

5 The Children's Christmas program was great, and thank-you cards were given out.

6 The Elders are going over the final list to check for information verification and clarity for the new photo directory.

7 The Friendship Christmas pageant was fabulous with a large turnout. Thank-you cards given out.

8 The Believe book reading is beginning. Kick-off is January 6th with Lesson 1. Books will be given this Sunday, Dec. 23 and will continue for the next 2 Sundays. Chapter sharing will start with Lesson 1 with the focus being on answering the following questions:

- What did the chapter mean to me?
- What did I learn that was new or different?
- What did I learn that would make it easier to tell someone else?

9 There will be a trial run with children's activity pages during church.

- Parents will be asked to give Ida feedback.
- Starting in January, the children who are pre-readers will have a *Believe* coloring page (double-sided) that matches the chapter.
- Children who are readers will have a couple of questions that will give them something to think about regarding the chapter, with room to draw a picture and an activity on the other side.
- Ida is getting zipper pouches for the pens as they will be quieter.

10 Shannon Williamson, Love INC director, is offering to give us a 3-hr seminar on "Redemptive Compassion." When would this best fit in to our schedule, and more important when would it coordinate with what we will be learning in *Believe*? Council decided Sat. Feb. 23 would be appropriate as that weekend ties into the "Believe" chapter for that week and is relevant to the seminar topic of compassion. Details and confirmation of this date will be pursued.

GIVING		
in November 2018		
	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 3,334	\$ 44,797
General Fund Offerings	\$20,369	\$234,538
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>1,185</u>	<u>24,633</u>
Total Undesignated Income	22,254	259,171
General Fund Expenses	<u>(21,564)</u>	<u>(224,452)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 690</u>	<u>\$ 34,719</u>
Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 224,758
Year-to-Date Budget for 12 months		\$ 224,758
Total Undesignated Income		<u>259,171</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 34,413</u>
Loan Balances:		
Classis: \$ 15,000		

Theological Primer: Hypostatic Union

Kevin DeYoung

From time to time I make new entries into this continuing series called “Theological Primer.” The idea is to present big theological concepts in around 500 words. Today we look at the hypostatic union.

In simplest terms, the hypostatic union is a reference to Jesus Christ as both God and man, fully divine and fully human. Hypostasis is the Greek word for subsistence (think: individual existence). The hypostatic union, therefore, is the technical term for the unipersonality of Christ, whereby in the incarnation the Son of God was constituted a complex person with both a human and a divine nature.



For a concise and careful definition of the hypostatic union, the Chalcedonian Definition (451 A.D.) is still unsurpassed.

Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same

Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, *without confusion, without change, without division, without separation*; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

At the heart of this definition are the four negative statements I’ve italicized above.

Without confusion: The Lord Jesus Christ is not what you get when you mix blue and yellow together and end up with green. He’s not a tertium quid (a third thing), the result of mixing a divine and human nature.

Without change: In assuming human flesh, the Logos did not cease to be what he had always been. The incarnation affected no substantial change in the divine Son.

Without division: The two natures of Christ do not represent a split in the divine Person. Jesus Christ is not half God and half man.

Without separation: The union of the human and divine in the person of Jesus Christ is a real, organic union, not simply a moral sympathy or relational partnership.

This may seem like needless theological wrangling, but Chalcedon’s careful definition is meant to preserve the biblical teaching that (1) the divine nature was united, in the person of the Son, with a human nature (John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:11-14) and (2) the two natures are united in only one divine Person (Rom. 1:3-4; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:6-11). As Chalcedon puts it, the characteristics of each nature are preserved—in no way annulled by the union—even as they come together in one person (prospion) and one subsistence (hypostasis).

This article was submitted by Pastor Scott and is from “The Gospel Coalition” website. It may be found online at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/theological-primer-hypostatic-union/>

Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

Mona Reardon was born in Drumheller, Alberta. She was the fourth of five girls born to the Grass family. There were no boys in the family. She was raised on a farm 15 miles northwest of Drumheller. She rode a horse to a country school. There was a barn at the school for the horses of the students. She had a Christian upbringing even though the family wasn't able to attend church regularly. She had Sunday School lessons by correspondence. Mona went to high school in Drumheller. She was living with her grandmother at that time.

Mona made profession of faith at Knox United Church and attended there as a member. After she graduated from high school, she attended Calgary Business College. She met Don Reardon through his brother, who was working on the family farm. He was dating Mona's sister, and one time he brought his brother Don with him. Don was from Washington, and Mona and he clicked, and they were married in Drumheller on May 7, 1949. They lived in Seattle where Don was employed as a bricklayer and was a deacon at the Hillcrest Presbyterian Church.

Don and Mona had one daughter, Robin, and two sons, Don, Jr., and Hal. She currently has seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She became a naturalized citizen and worked at an advertising agency. Later she worked at Continental Can Company in the personnel department.

The couple started a wholesale nursery business in 1953. They propagated and grew azaleas, heather and rhododendrons. In Dec. 1967, they moved to Lake Samish near Bellingham. As a bricklayer, Don built the large house that Mona currently lives in. They had the nursery business right in their yard where they sold plants to landscapers and nurseries. Their children started school at Larrabee, and the family attended the Geneva Community Church, and their children went to the Firs camps. Mona and Don were avid

square dancers and entertained their square dance friends in their home. Deloris and Dale Perry were included in that group who did the "Do- si- do."

Don passed away on Sept. 8, 1984, of a malignant brain tumor. Mona soon transferred her membership to Bellingham Christian Reformed Church, now Hope in Christ. She has been blessed with friends here in her church home.

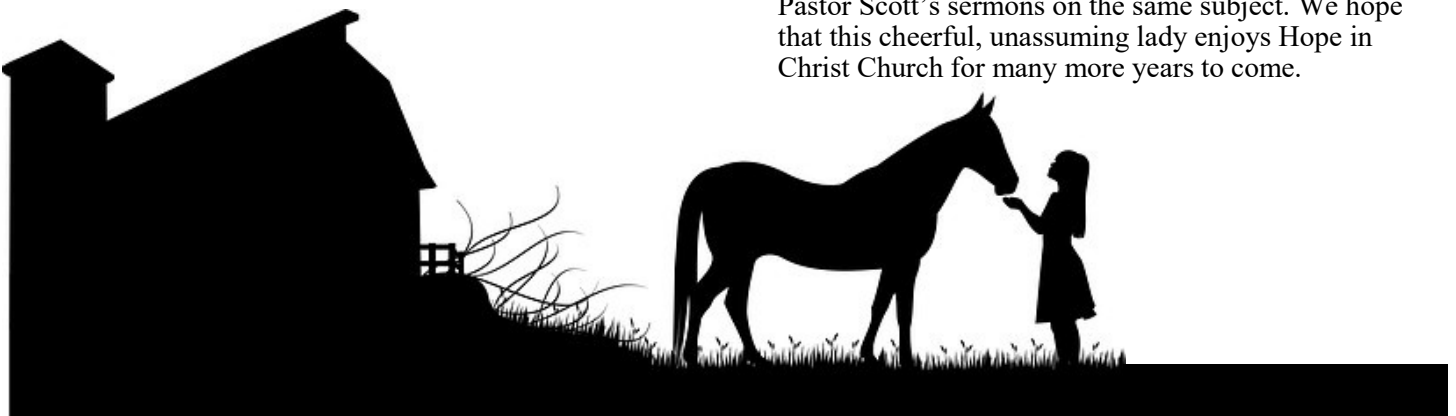
Mona is one of those "pillars" of our church who occupies a seat in the back center row of church. She often sits near Anne Geleynse, who shares a relative with her. Mona's daughter, Robin, is married to Anne's son, Dale. Okay, we better not get started playing "Dutch bingo."

Mona has a very spacious waterfront home on Lake Samish that would be the envy of any realtor. Her deck overlooks beautiful Lake Samish; and if you were to relax there, you could watch the water skiers strutting their stuff on the lake. Their own children became quite the water skiers, and they would find themselves going to regional tournaments in California and national tournaments in Georgia and Virginia. Their daughter Robin was such a good water skier that she took second place in the U.S.

On a spring or summer day if you were driving by on the Lake Samish Road you might spot Mona mowing her expansive lawn or perhaps she could be pruning her many rhododendron bushes that line her house. This woman is not afraid of hard work, and she's no spring chicken any more. Perhaps she derives her energy from the exercise classes she attends with her daughter, Robin who is an instructor at the YMCA in Ferndale and Bellingham. Mona has always participated in her daughter's classes, doing the bench stepping and also lifting weights.

For years Mona has attended the Wednesday morning ladies Bible study. She has learned so much and enjoys the fellowship with the ladies under Ruth Stadt's leadership.

She has also attended several of the adult Sunday School programs. She especially enjoys our study of *The Story*, and looks forward to the new book, *Believe*. She feels it is so meaningful to have the whole congregation studying the same Bible chapters and Pastor Scott's sermons on the same subject. We hope that this cheerful, unassuming lady enjoys Hope in Christ Church for many more years to come.



6 December 2018

RE: Expressed Concern for Allowing Non-Members to Vote on the Budget

Dear Congregation,

At our congregational meeting on November 18, 2018, the council president made a recommendation and took a voice vote to allow long term non-members to vote on approving the budget. The vote to allow non-members to vote on this budget proposal only was approved, and the subsequent budget was approved unanimously. The reasoning for this proposal was due to a desire to allow our long-term non-members who faithfully contribute to the church expenses and ministry to participate in our corporate decision about this. While we had no intention of assuming this from year to year, we were seeking a way for greater inclusion of all baptized adult members especially since we have allowed these people to vote on other significant events in the past, i.e. beginning the vitality pathway and consideration of a possible merger with Grace Church. We recognize that all of these events affect everyone in our congregation and not just Professing members.

After the meeting, it was brought to the attention of the pastor and elders that our vote to allow long term non-members to vote in a congregational meeting was in opposition to church order article 59(c), article VII.B. of our Articles of Incorporation and point 11 of our bylaws.

As the council president and the pastor of our congregation, both Ida and I express our deep regret at not having taken the time and due diligence to review these documents prior to the congregational meeting, and for presenting a motion which was contrary to our legal documents. We humbly request your forgiveness. We have since taken steps to provide future Council presidents with the information, instructions, documents, and protocols for congregational meetings and voting procedures.

We have discussed this at both the Elders and the Council meetings.

Now the question remains, how should we proceed? In conversation with the council, we presented 2 options:

- 1) Call for a revote on the budget;
- 2) Accept the vote of the budget since it was ratified unanimously and even if non-member votes were removed, it would still be unanimous.

The council has opted for Option 2.

If you have any further concerns regarding the process of how we proceeded, please contact your elder. We always appreciate and welcome your coming to us with your concerns, needs, prayer requests, suggestions, and words of encouragement.

Sincerely,

Ida Richards, Council President
Rev. J. Scott Roberts, Pastor

January 2019

SERMONS

- 1/06 **God: Three in One**
Gen 1:1-3; John 1:1; 2 Cor 13:14
Believe Chapter 1
- 1/13 **Providence**
Gen 50:20
Believe Chapter 2
- 1/20 **Salvation by Grace through Faith**
Rom 3:21-31
Believe Chapter 3
- 1/27 **The Bible Reveals God & God's Will for Us**
2 Tim 3:12-17; Heb 1:1-2
Believe Chapter 4

GREETERS

- 1/06 Denise Doezema, Lisa Oppenhuizen
1/13 Del & Pat Bosman
1/20 Faye & Jerry Hop
1/27 Karen Smith, Chris Pike

COOKIES

- 1/06 Marilyn Kaiser, Deloris Perry
1/13 Faye Hop, Avis Kaemingk
1/20 Tanya Obbink, Lisa Oppenhuizen
1/27 Marilyn Kaiser, Melissa Koning

SERVING ASSISTANTS

- 1/06 AnaMaria, Brenna, Amber
1/13 Chantel, Caleb, Michal
1/20 Micah, Faith, Clara
1/27 Abee, Mattea, Maggie

*Unable to serve
on your date?*

PRAYER ROOM

- 1/06 Jay Kaemingk
1/13 Lou Kooistra
1/20 Ali Laninga
1/27 Ev Kooistra

OFFERING

- 1/06 Kingdom Advancement Fund
1/13 Kingdom Advancement Fund
1/20 Outreach Fund
1/27 Kingdom Advancement Fund

USHERS/*FOYER

- 1/06 Helen Bowman, Joe Pruitt*
1/13 Hildred & Clair* Abee
1/20 Elaine Snapper, Len Vander Woude*
1/27 Gina & Steve* Nicolaas

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

- 1/06 Diane Button, Zeke
1/13 Marjie Herold, Mattea
1/20 Dan Obbink, Kylie
1/27 Jen Roberts, Amber

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 1/06 Aaron Speyer, Christine Speyer, Melissa Koning
Observer: Ida Richards
- 1/13 Aaron Speyer, Christine Speyer, Melissa Koning
Observer: Lisa DeSalvo
- 1/20 Aaron Speyer, Christine Speyer, Melissa Koning
Observer: Elaine Snapper
- 1/27 Aaron Speyer, Elaine Snapper, Darlys Recker
Observer: Rockelle Ruter

Please call someone else on the list and trade days. Thank you for your help!

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Study	4	5
6 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	7 6:00 p.m. GEMS	8 6:30 p.m. Boer's Bible Study	9 9:45 a.m. Women's Study 6:00 p.m. Elders / Deacons 7:00 p.m. Council	10 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice	11	12
13 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:30 pm Roberts' Group 4:30 Jesus Gathering 7:00 p.m. Laninga Group	14 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class	15 6:00 p.m. Richards' Bible Study	16 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Team Leaders 8:00 p.m. Worship Plan Team	17 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice	18	19
20 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	21 6:00 p.m. GEMS	22 6:30 p.m. Boer's Bible Study	23 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. Heartbeat Newsletter Deadline	24 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:30 p.m. Roberts' Small Group 7:00 p.m. Laninga Group	28 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class	29	30 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team		

Happy Birthday!

3 Elaine Wick
3 Vicki Tyner-Seim
7 Don Snapper
10 Hildred Abee

11 Faith Roberts
14 Bethany Cunningham
15 Lisa DeSalvo
18 Avis Kaemingk
22 Chris Pike

24 GERALYN CUNNINGHAM
27 Mona Reardon
28 Tricia Bravener
29 Linda McConnaughey
30 Herm Laninga