

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

April 2019 Issue

Who is Qualified to Give Biblical Counsel?

By Pastor Scott

It isn't uncommon to hear someone say, "I am not qualified for this!" And I would surmise that many more think these words than actually say them. The truth be told, are any of us qualified to give biblical counsel to another? The answer may shock you – yes and no.

None of us are qualified to give biblical advice, warning or encouragement by ourselves. None of us are capable of knowing the heart of another. None of us are sufficiently versed in the Word to be able to understand it perfectly, apply it flawlessly and pray it absolutely. But the good news is that God never asked us to be perfect before he commissioned us to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

Anyone who is endowed with the Spirit of Christ is capable of giving biblical counsel because the Holy Spirit dwells in them, leads, guides and teaches them to say no to the evil and rejoice in the good. If we want to be qualified to give biblical counsel to others, then it is imperative that we have the following beliefs and characteristics growing in our own lives.

First, we must believe that the Bible is useful and applicable to the problems that people face today. 2Tim. 3:16 reminds us that the Word of God is good for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. This means that whether we encounter drunkenness, anger, jealousy, greed, an uncontrolled mouth, or a lack of love, to name a few things, the Scriptures have something to say about how we ought to live and what repentance will look like in these sinful situations. The Bible is immensely practical and useful in our daily lives, if we will but believe the words of life contained within her covers, remembering that God spoke

these words for our benefit.

Second, we need to care about others and the lives they are living. I am not talking about the kind of care that presents itself as gossip by talking about another's life to anyone and everyone. Rather, I am talking about the kind of care that sees a person walking in sin and is concerned enough to want to gently restore that person to a life faithful to the Lord (Gal. 6:1). If anger or frustration or pride are motivating us to correct another with the Word, we are not qualified to give counsel. Rather gentleness and love expressing themselves in genuine care and concern for the health and vitality of another is the defining mark of a biblical counselor.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Third, only the humble are qualified to counsel (Gal. 6:2-3). Humility recognizes that in our own strength we would make the same choices and commit the same errors as others. Humility gives us the ability to identify with another and act as a 'priest' and a 'prophet.' As a priest we can bring them to the Lord in prayer, asking for the power of the Spirit in their lives, identifying with them and knowing the weakness that exists in humanity. As a prophet, we can bring the Word of the Lord and let it illumine the areas of difficulty.

Armed with a genuine love and concern for others, a humble spirit and the Word of God, any believer is qualified to give biblical counsel, guidance, advice and warning. And it is this kind of character and doctrine that we desperately need if we are to bring hope to a hurting world.

Getting to Know our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

Joe Pruitt was born in Mississippi, but he moved to Chicago when he was about six months old. He was an only child. He went all through school in Chicago, and he graduated from the University of Wisconsin, which is located in Oshkosh.

Some of his jobs following graduation from the University were working as a sales auditor for the Marshall Fields Co. in Chicago, working as a mailroom clerk for the American Bar Association, also in Chicago, and a para-educator for the Public School District in Milwaukee. Joe currently works as an employment specialist for Cascade Connections in Bellingham. He finds jobs for people with disabilities. He has held this job for almost 15 years.

For hobbies Joe enjoys shooting pool, going to video arcades and playing the pinball machines, going to movies, walking and traveling.

When I asked him what brought him to the Lord, he responded that he was raised in the church and he was baptized when he was about four or five years old. He grew up in the Baptist Church. He came to this area largely due to his relative, Arbedella McAllister, who is a former member of our church. He started attending our church in 2002, when Pastor Gord was the pastor. He enjoys the friendliness of our church, and he especially appreciated the house church that he attended shortly after he arrived. He really felt accepted. He appreciated being invited to join the leadership team at Hope in Christ; he served as a deacon, and is currently serving as an elder. He is the secretary of the elders and of the council. He is excited to see the enthusiasm in our church, and he is excited to see where the Lord is going to lead us. He served on the last Vitality team for our church.

Being a leader in Friendship also brings him joy, and the students really respond well to him, especially when he leads the group in signing the current memory verse.

Joe is a very personable guy, and we are very glad that he headed west to join our church. He is a real asset to our church and to our community.

Dynamic Decorating Duo Disbanding

After 27 years of being “The Dynamic Decorating Duo” at Hope in Christ, these two gals are ready to hand this job over to an upcoming team! We feel that new eyes will bring exciting changes and a fresh perspective to the church’s visual enhancement!

There is an entire room upstairs filled with seasonal decorating items and there is a fund allocated in the budget for purchases towards decorating.

We know that there are creative members of our congregation who would like to try their hand at decorating our church home.

We have decided that we will “retire” after the 2019 Christmas season.

Decorating our church for the past 27 years has been a true joy and real blessing to us and we have had such fun along the way! And thank you to those who have often stepped up to help us in many different ways, which has made it so much easier!

We look forward to a new look at Hope in Christ!

In Christ’s love,
Christine Speyer and Ida Richards

Deacon’s Digest

By Elaine Snapper

The fundraisers for the Lighthouse Mission and Interfaith have taken place by the time this is published. Lisa De Salvo collected items for the two baskets for the fundraisers and auctions.

Our church has completed our commitment for the family promise week. Our church did a good job of supplying meals to the mothers and the children who came to First Christian Church on the Bakerview Road for assistance. A few members of our church also spent the night there. All who helped with this project deserve a big thank you.

You are invited to come to a movie night on Fri., Apr. 5, at 7 p.m. to watch *The Pilgrim’s Progress: The Journey Begins*. It is based on John Bunyan’s masterpiece. It is an animated movie. Everyone is welcome, and you are encouraged to bring your friends. Popcorn and M & M’s will be provided by the deacons. A freewill offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the film.

**Mark Your Calendar for the
Redemptive Compassion Seminar
at Hope in Christ Church on
Saturday, May 4th from
9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**

**Redemptive
Compassion**



**Speaker: Shannon Williamson,
Executive Director of Love INC**

If you find the following questions unsettling, Redemptive Compassion is for you. Why do so many of the commonly-used methods seem so ineffective in reducing ongoing need and bringing transformation? Many people are trapped in a crippling lifestyle of poverty and crisis and dependency; what causes this and why are our responses not working? How do we help the right way?

What to expect: training on how the Church is called to holistically help people in need. This training will use both Redemptive Compassion Training content in an interactive seminar style class. You will learn core principles and concepts necessary for holistic transformation; grapple with real case studies in a round-table setting with guided discussions. Redemptive Compassion Training escorts you on a journey into the humility and wisdom of loving others well.

Redemptive Compassion® study guide book offers a biblical perspective on how the Church is called to holistically help people in need. This training content was developed from fifteen years of working daily with people who are struggling with needs; it includes real case studies and applies effective principles for helping. The book is authored by Lois Tupy and is accompanied by free online training video clips of Lois speaking into these issues.

Redemptive Compassion employs 6 core principles:

- Everyone has value
- We are called to invest relationally in each other
- Everyone has capacity and potential
- Mutual participation is important
- We must use wisdom and discernment
- Serve in ways that transform

Giving in February 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Year-to-</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 1,247	\$ 13,570
General Fund Offerings	\$15,888	\$ 57,967
Rent / Utilities Income	1,539	6,808
Interest Income - Undesignated	29	29
Total Undesignated Income	17,456	64,804
General Fund Expenses	(21,516)	(58,987)
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (4,060)</u>	<u>\$ 5,817</u>

Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas	\$ 234,133
Year-to-Date Budget for 12 months	\$ 58,533
Total Undesignated Income	64,804
Income Over (Under) Budget	<u>\$ 6,271</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 15,000

Items of Interest from March's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

Report on Classis Meeting: HICC is included in the new Classis North Cascades. We will continue to pay on our loan.

Discussion of summer intern, Joshua: An intern will potentially with us for 8 weeks. The timeline is flexible between May and August. \$2000 is already budgeted for an intern. A motion made and passed to invite Joshua to join us as a summer intern. Details are to be worked out.

Report on Pilgrim's Progress movie: Showing April 5th at 7 p.m. Council discussed maybe announcing it in The Community Bulletin, having a freewill offering, maybe providing M&Ms and popcorn.

Project Shower Connect: A motion was passed to host Project Shower Connect. Terry Vander Woude and Lisa DeSalvo will look into the details (dates & times). This will be posted in the bulletin with a request for towel donations.

Council agreed to host the October Classis Meeting: We are considering the 2nd Thursday in October and discussed providing lunch and possibly dinner if necessary. We'll figure out rooms and space for the estimated 75-100 people.

Family Promise Update

Dear Hope in Christ Family,

A great big thank-you to the many volunteers that helped us keep our commitment to the families enrolled in Family Promise. To all those who provided food/snacks, acted as hosts, stayed over-night and did the laundry, we acknowledge your giving spirits and willing service!

We received the following communication from the Family Promise Director, Carolyn Roy. This is the type of update we as coordinators receive every week!

Thank you to last week's host . . . First Christian and Hope in Christ



Thank you Tamalyn, Ali, Lorraine, and Carlos, for hosting our guests last week. And thank you for your flexibility with illnesses and scheduling conflicts!

Family Update: This week we welcome a new family - mom with 10-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son. They will join mom with four children (5, 4, and 2-year-old twins) and mom with a 6-year-old son.

Food and Nutritional Needs: No allergies

A Few Words... We are swiftly heading toward our one-year mark since opening Family Promise of Whatcom County. As we begin to look back at this past year, I am amazed at the rewards, as well as the challenges that have taken place. And I am especially grateful for the enormous team of volunteers, the staff, and the Family Promise Leadership Team, that keep the program moving forward and thriving. Exciting things are happening as we approach our first anniversary, but most importantly, lives are changing - our lives as we are stretched and molded and gain a deeper understanding of what it means to serve our neighbors, and the lives of our guests, as they recognize that people care.

Our next opportunity to serve these families is the week of May 26 – please mark your calendars.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering with Family Promise, please contact Ali Laninga, HICC Coordinator or Lorraine Brouwer/Herman Laninga, Assistants.

Ethiopian Well Update

By Terry Vander Woude

Several years ago, Hope in Christ Church raised funds for New Hope Outreach Ministry. The donated money was to go towards building a well for a new orphanage that was planned to be built in Ethiopia. At the time, the Ethiopian government encouraged the building of the orphanage, and the way forward was clear.

Since then, government roadblocks and controversies about land ownership have kept the orphanage building from being completed, and the funds for the well have not been used. Hope in Christ Church has been in touch with New Hope Outreach Ministry over the years, getting updates on the issues which have stalled the building of the orphanage and well.

The most recent update is that, approximately eight months ago, the Ethiopian government gave permission for New Hope Outreach Ministry to finish the well project and work was restarted on the well. New Hope Outreach Ministry released more money from the American bank and it was sent to Ethiopia to complete the project. However, since then the Ethiopian government has seized all American money and property and has shut down all private orphanages. The completion of the orphanage continues to be blocked by their government.

The good news is that Tsegavay and his wife Bizu, who spoke at our church, are now in Ethiopia and will be taking over this ministry. Continue to pray for New Hope Outreach Ministry and for the orphans affected by the ruling of their government. Pray also that God would allow the funds that were raised to be used in his kingdom according to his will. Pastor Scott will continue to be in contact with Tsegavay and Bizu.

Shower Connect is Coming to Hope in Christ Church

By Terry Vander Woude

Hope in Christ Church has agreed to host the Lighthouse Missions' Shower Connect once a month. On April 18th(tentative) from 1-4pm the Lighthouse Mission will be using our parking lot for their mobile shower unit. We will need donations of slightly used

towels, homemade cookies and 4-5 volunteers. Our plan is to have a few tables on the grass near the trailer to set up snacks and beverages and a place for the visitors to sign in. The council will review the program in 3-4 months to determine if we want to continue hosting the shower connect, expand to more than once a month and/or add in a meal offered to those who come for the showers.

The volunteers will log in the guests, hand out towels, offer cookies and/or beverages and be available to visit with those waiting for their turn to use the showers (there are two). A staff member from the Lighthouse Mission will be present at all times and will handle any conflicts that may come up.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the project or have any questions, please contact Lisa DeSalvo or Terry Vander Woude.

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2. Discussion of summer intern, Joshua: Potentially with us for 8 weeks. Timeline flexible between May and August. \$2000 already budgeted for an intern. We agree to notify congregation. Motion made and passed to invite Joshua to join us as a summer intern. Details to be worked out.
3. Report on "Pilgrim's Progress" movie: Showing April 5th at 7 p.m. Discussed maybe announcing in The Community Bulletin, having a freewill offering, maybe provide M&Ms and popcorn.
4. Project Shower Connect: Motion passed to host Project Shower Connect. Terry Vander Woude and Lisa DeSalvo will look into details (dates & times). Maybe post in the bulletin. Also ask for towel donations.
5. Council agreed to host the October Classis Meeting: Discussed providing lunch and possibly dinner if necessary. Considering the 2nd Thursday in October. Estimating 75-150 people. We'll figure out rooms and space.

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for January 2019

By Joe Strong

Sometimes, I wonder if you can actually follow some of the stories that I write about. I have written about Jesús several times. He is a 28 year-old Hispanic heroin addict with whom I have been working for over 3 years. He was the man who stuck his head out of the jail hatch and begged me to help him. He actually attended our Amor Viviente Church several times. His wife eventually left him and went to live in Birch Bay State Park last summer. Jesús ended up living on the streets of Bellingham. He nearly died in jail of black-heart, a blood infection, because he shoots heroin instead of smoking it. Several times while in jail and in the hospital, he begged me to allow him to live at our transformational house Bridges of Hope but I told him that we would not take him unless he went to treatment first. I fed him at Burger King several times during the cold winter. After begging members of our church for money, I told the church, food and clothing yes, money, no. The day Jesús surrendered and went to a treatment center, was one happy day. In fact, I was elated. He has been an inpatient for over 30 days and now wants to get into our house. Sad to say, our house presently has all of our beds full. God still reigns and loves Jesús. I will help this man in any way I can. Every person is important. Pray for Jesús.

I wish you could have been with me as I visited the Whatcom County Jail yesterday. I visited two men each around 30 years of age, who confessed that they were sick and tired of living the drug life and wanted help. I gave one an application to our house. Jose, asked for prayers because he has been locked up for 1 1/2 years awaiting trial. If he loses his case, he will be deported to Mexico. Steven cries and cries every time we meet because he misses his kids so much. Another man has been taking the Crossroads Ministry Course and is so excited. He will be sentenced soon but hopes to complete the entire course of 3 or 4 years of study from prison. Geovanni, who has a large #13 tattooed on his head, promises to be in our church this coming Sunday morning. The visiting goes on and on. I pray with each man and share Scripture. Yesterday, after spending all afternoon in the jail, I went to the hospital in Belling-

ham and did 3 more visits.

Nate just called me this morning. He is in prison in Shelton, WA. I have known this man, who is a gang member, for 15 years. A while back he stole a vehicle in Lynden that belonged to a CRC man. This time around he asked the prison to not be placed with active gang members. I had been visiting Nate for nearly a year and I have seen changes. He told me today that he still reads his Bible and prays every day. He confesses Jesus as his Savior. This time I believe him. Continue to pray for Nate.

Northwest Hispanic Ministry plans on two banquets to showcase this ministry. May 17 in Mt. Vernon and May 18 in Lynden. We promise an interesting evening. Please come.

Concert of Worship with the Senti Family

Please mark your calendars for the Senti family concert on April 26, Friday, at 7pm at Hope in Christ Church. The CD to be released is called, "Wake Up Oh Sleeper". If you're interested in getting a copy beforehand, let Mitch know at 360-392-0289 or e-mail us at mitch-senti@hotmail.com. There are 12 songs, mostly taken from Scripture and we would love to bless you with this CD. You can choose to donate to Envision or to the Senti family in any amount and receive a CD as a thank you! The love offering will go to the work of Envision Mission.

Also, clothing for our clothing drive will be collected at the concert and all the following day at Hope in Christ church's sanctuary. It will then be sold to a company that recycles it and the money will be used for our Summit House.

Ladies' Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will not be meeting April 17. The final Bible Study will be Wednesday, April

24 followed by a salad luncheon. Bible study will resume in the fall.





April 2019



Greeters Schedule

- 7 Christine & Lanny Speyer
- 14 Ruth Stadt, Denise Doezema
- 21 Faye & Jerry Hop
- 28 Karen Smith & Chris Pike

Cookie Schedule

- 7 Helen Bowman, Alice Brakke
- 14 Lorraine Brouwer, Lisa DeSalvo
- 21 Marilyn Kaiser, Melissa Koning
- 28 Ev Kooistra, Ali Laninga

Serving Assistants

- 7 Mattea, Zeke, Maggie
- 14 AnaMaria, Brenna, Amber
- 21 Chantel, Caleb, Amariah
- 28 Micah, Faith, Michal

Prayer Room

- 7 Lou Kooistra
- 14 Ali Laninga
- 21 Jay Kaemingk
- 28 Ida Richards

Sermon Topics

- 7 Bible Study, *Believe* Ch. 13
- 14 How Are Your Eyes?, Ch. 14
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 28 Total Surrender, *Believe* Ch. 15

Offering Schedule

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

Ushering Schedule/*Foyer

- 7 *Bud Brouwer, Joe Pruitt
- 14 Ken Wick, *Len Vander Woude
- 21 Helen Bowman, *Don Knutson
- 28 *Clair & Hildred Abee

Children & Worship

- 7 Marjie Herold, Ali Laninga
- 14 Diane Button, Zeke
- 21 None
- 28 Marjie Herold, Amber

Sunday School Schedule

- 7 Aaron S., Jenn B., Terry V. (observer)
- 14 Aaron S., Jenn B., Tena V. (observer)
- 21 None
- 28 Diane B., Melissa K., Jerry H. (observer)

Not Able to Serve When Scheduled?

*Please call someone on the list
and make a plan to trade dates.
Thank you for your help!*



April 2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Elders & Deacons	6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	7:00 p.m. Movie Night	
7 9:30 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	8 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class	9 6:00 p.m. Richards' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Boer's Bible Study	10 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Council	11 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:30 p.m. Roberts' Small Group 4:30 p.m. Jesus Gathering 7:00 p.m. Laninga Small Group	15 6:00 p.m. GEMS	16	17	18 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 1:00 p.m. Project Shower Connect 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	19 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service	20
21 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Easter	22 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class	23 6:00 p.m. Richards' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Boer's Bible Study	24 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study and luncheon	25 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	26 7:00 p.m. Senti Concert	27 Envision Clothing Drive
28 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:30 p.m. Roberts' Small Group 7:00 p.m. Laninga Small Group	29 6:00 p.m. GEMS	30 Happy Birthday! 4 Dan Obbink 6 Roland Vanden Bos 15 Debra Reamer 16 Clair Abee 19 Denise Doezema 19 Elisha Roberts 20 Gloria Groothuis 21 Chris Dillard 22 Jerry Hop 24 Gina Nicolaas 25 Mark Ruiter 27 Pastor Scott Roberts				

