

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

August 2019 Issue

The Human Heart

By Pastor Scott



Understanding the human heart is the key to understanding ourselves and others. All that we do, the words that we say, and the things we refuse to do flow out of the heart. Jesus clearly declared that ‘out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander’ (Mt 15:19). Add to this the words we speak (Mt 12:34) and James’ declaration that the quarrels and fights we experience are the result of our inner passions warring within (4:1). In fact, Paul declared that when the Lord comes he will ‘disclose the purposes of the heart’ (1 Cor 4:5). All of this fittingly declares that the problems of the world are really issues of the heart.

Our pride, selfishness, arrogance, hostility, sexual perversions, inability to submit to leadership, greed, gluttony, etcetera are all rooted in heart desires that have been twisted from their original focus. At creation, God intended the human heart to be directed toward Himself. People were to trust God, love God, seek God, but sin reoriented their hearts away from the Lord and onto themselves. As one author commented, ‘The world’s smallest package is a man wrapped up in himself.’ But this wasn’t supposed to be our lot. People were to be focused on God and so live magnanimous lives of love, generosity, goodness and kindness.

Understanding this is a key to understanding how to provide counseling help to those in our spheres of in-

fluence who are seeking advice or help with the problems of life. When we properly recognize that most of the issues of life have to do with the orientation and response of the heart, then we can help others to look deeply and truthfully at their longings and desires and invite them to compare that to the Word of God. When they do, they will find the need for repentance, which is always the first step in healing and renewing the heart. To gain a new inner person, we need new hearts, renewed minds and a willingness to walk with the Lord (Rom 12:2).

So, the next time you find the fruit of your life or the fruit in another’s life to be rotting instead of aromatic and beautiful, take a look at the heart. Examine the desires that are being unmet which are producing toxic responses. Then compare those desires with the Scriptures and repent as needed. So often, we simply try to repair or replace the fruit on the tree without realizing that the fruit is born from the rootstock and sick rootstock will always produce bad fruit.

Consider journaling about these questions:

- 1) What is my situation?
- 2) How am I responding/reacting?
- 3) What do I want or believe will really satisfy me in this situation?
- 4) What does God say about this situation and my response in his Word?
- 5) What should I desire?
- 6) What should I do now?

A great short video and graphic depicting this can be found at www.faithlafayette.org/heart

Items of Interest from July's Council Meeting

By Herman Laninga

- 1) New storage cabinets have arrived and are being installed in the hallway between the restrooms just off the foyer.
- 2) Joshua Currey, our summer intern, will be leaving us August 6. He will return to his home in Kansas for a short time and then returning to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to continue his studies in preparation for ministry. Be sure to speak to Joshua and thank him for his ministry with us this summer.
- 3) The Shower Connect ministry is moving to the Salvation Army campus on Northwest Ave. Our location did not attract as many people as the Lighthouse Mission (sponsors) had hoped. They were very appreciative of our hospitality. And thank-you to all our members who helped with this ministry to our neighbors in need! Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the Salvation Army to make arrangements.
- 4) On Sunday, June 30, Walt Williamson of the Gideons gave a presentation about their on-going work of making the gospel available to everyone. A free-will offering was taken as we exited the sanctuary and Walt reported receiving \$594! If you have further questions or have an interest in learning more about the Gideons, speak to David and Lisa DeSalvo.
- 5) The high school group has been given permission to use the large basement room in the Ministry House for their gatherings. They plan to do some redecorating and are looking for a few furniture items. Contact Clair and Hildred Abee, sponsors, for a needs list.
- 6) Synod 2019 has agreed with the request of the eleven Whatcom County CRC churches to form their own Classis. Currently we are part of Classis Pacific Northwest. The new Classis will be known as Classis North Cascades. Pastor Scott, Elder Clair Abee and Deacon Elaine Snapper will be attending an organizing meeting on Sept. 25.
- 7) Pastor Scott reported three persons are in his New Members/Profession of Faith class. They are Heidi Koepp, Don Nokleby and Amber Obbink. We look forward to the day of their full commitment to membership in HICC!
- 8) Three father/daughter teams announced their desire to join a mission team being organized by Cornwall Church to minister in Ethiopia this fall. They are Brian & Abee Koning, Dan & Amber Obbink and Mark & Michal Ruiter. Each person is expected to raise \$2200. We will be learning of various opportunities to help them raise funds. Our Council is in full support of this effort and we praise God for their willingness to serve him!
- 9) Council is in the process of reviewing/updating our Safe Church policy. A congregational training of the revised policy is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 18 following the service.

Deacon's Digest

By Rockelle Ruiter

For those new to our congregation and as a reminder to everyone else, the deacons would like to review how offering funds are dispersed. Any checks with a designation in the memo line, such as Benevolence, Outreach, GEMS, Friendship, Missions, or General Fund go to the designated fund. All checks with nothing designated go to the General Fund. Most Sundays (the first, second and fourth, specifically), all cash offerings are applied toward the General Fund, which is also known as the Kingdom Advancement Fund. This is the fund that covers all items in our budget, including staff salaries, building maintenance, and ministries such as Sunday School, GEMS and Friendship. On the third Sunday of the month, all cash offerings go toward the Outreach Fund. This fund supports five ministries chosen by our congregation—the Lighthouse Mission, Envision Missions, Cascade Connections, Street Corners and Seafarer's. Similarly, if there is a fifth Sunday in a month, all cash offerings go into the Benevolence Fund which is used to bless many different people, including an indigenous pastor in Nepal, a pastor who is training church leaders in Vietnam, folks referred to us by Love, INC., and our own church family who have need.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month I am featuring Herman and Ali Laninga. Both Herm and Ali were born in the Netherlands. Their fathers were born in the same town, Bedum, Groningen. Herm came to the United States when he was age 6, and Ali came when she was age 8. Herm and Ali met as kids when he was 12 and she was 8. Four immigrant families in this area were friends, and they spent all of their holidays together and did things together in the summer.

Ali first lived in Everett and was there for two years. Then the family moved to Mt. Vernon where her father owned a bakery. Ali helped her father in the bakery after school. When Ali was a sophomore, she started attending Lynden Christian High School, and that is where she graduated. She attended Skagit Valley Community College for 1½ years and also worked as a waitress before marrying Herm. After their children entered school, she re-entered the work place and was employed as a secretary/ receptionist at Bethany Christian Services, an adoption agency, for 12 years and Peace Health for 15.

Herm attended 12 years at Lynden Christian and then attended Western Washington State College (now University). After graduation he started working at Mt. Baker Jr/Sr High School in 1969 and taught for 12 years. Following teaching he pursued a career in sales. He worked in computer sales for 25 years and telephone sales for ten years before retiring in 2017.

Herm and Ali started dating when she was a junior in high school, and he was attending Western. After being offered a teaching job at Mt. Baker High School, they felt it was the perfect time to get married, and they were wed in Mt. Vernon CRC on July 29, 1969. They will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on Saturday, August. 3.

The couple are the parents of three children. Tammi, along with her husband Pat, teaches at Western. Geralyn, along with husband Mike, do mission work in British Columbia and son Matt is employed at Wood Stone Corporation, where they make ovens. The couple has nine grandchildren.

When I asked if they had an “aha” moment when they accepted Christ, they really didn’t have one, but had always attended church and Christian day schools. Ali made profession of faith when she was in high school. She said her faith was cemented during turbulent years after her father died when she was 15. Herm didn’t make his profession of faith until after they were married and were expecting their first child. They really felt embraced when they started attending Hope in Christ Church over 50 years ago. They soon became youth leaders and taught Sunday School. They both have served as deacons and Herm has been an elder a few times.

They are currently involved in Family Promise, Friendship, and Herm is on the janitor crew and serves as Elder. Ali is a volunteer at the Food Bank, does laundry for a lady in a rehab center and together they volunteer annually at the Light House Mission Thanksgiving Meal, Project Homeless Connect and World Renew. They also volunteer as ushers at the Mount Baker Theater.

For hobbies Herm enjoys playing pool, gardening and walking at the mall six mornings a week. Ali enjoys reading, singing in Whatcom Chorale, taking walks and going to her Silver Sneakers exercise class. Together they like to travel and camp in their motor home. They also help provide care for their two Bellingham grandkids. They would like to make it back to the Netherlands sometime next year.

This couple has really been a blessing to our church, and we wish God’s blessings on them for many more years of marriage and good health together.



**THE
LITTLE LIBRARY
IS BUSY!!**



The Vitality Team would like to say thanks to all of you who have contributed books to our little library! It has been well used and is being refilled every few days. We will need a constant supply of books to keep adding to it throughout the year so please continue to bring us your contributions. Your help is appreciated!

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report, July 2019

By Joe Strong

I received an email from a church secretary in Lynden asking me if I would be willing to visit a man in the Whatcom County Jail. A note was added that this man was very emotionally unstable. When I found him in an isolation pod, I asked the officer on duty what he knew about this guy. He responded, "Good luck, he does not communicate with us." When the hatch was opened, this man was on his knees, with long hair drooping over his bearded face. He was reading in a barely audible voice from a small pocket Bible. He barely looked up at me but kept reading. After a few moments, I started quoting the same Scripture from memory that he was reading, and so we went on like that for several minutes. Finally, I asked him if he understood all that he was reading. He stopped but kept looking down and I shared the meaning of some of the verses that he had just read. He would read then stop and I would make comments. After a while I asked him, "Have you ever accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?" "No" "Would you like to?" "Yes," and a big grin came across his face. So I led him in the believer's prayer and then told him that it was time to stand on his feet and do a little dance around his cell and shout out Hallelujah. That is

what he did. I have been meeting with this man ever since.

I received another email the other day from a senior care center in Bellingham asking me if there was a way that we could help a man who was so lonely because he only spoke Spanish and there was no other person to communicate with this man at the facility. Fortunately, we had a household that lived a few minutes away and now this man is being visited and ministered to regularly. One of the goals of our church is to live up to our name, Amor Viviente, Living Love. I try to practice this everyday and I encourage our members to do the same. One reason for head knowledge is to move the heart to action.

At our men's retreat in June, 22 men showed up and received a tremendous blessing. Pastor Marco led a discussion on what God expected of men as leaders of their households. Both of our Spanish churches participated.

I am so thankful for the many people who volunteer their time in Lynden to bless our Sunday School program. We still are waiting for God to move a person's heart to want to help with the Sunday School Program for our Mt. Vernon church.

HICC Giving in June 2019

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 897	\$ 20,423
General Fund Offerings	\$23,028	\$150,793
Rent / Utilities Income	1,644	16,398
Interest Income - Undesignated	<u>52</u>	<u>244</u>
Total Undesignated Income	24,724	167,435
General Fund Expenses	<u>(16,808)</u>	<u>(141,042)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 7,916</u>	<u>\$ 26,393</u>
Total 2019 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 234,133
Year-to-Date Budget for 12 months		\$ 136,578
Total Undesignated Income		<u>167,435</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 30,857</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 15,000

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRIES

By Tanya Obbink

Often when I think of God's heart for the Friendship Ministry, I think of the parable of the Great Banquet. When those invited to the banquet gave excuses for why they could not attend, the Master sent his servants to bring in the poor, crippled, blind and lame and anyone else in the "highways and hedges" they could compel to come. Often it seems much easier to share our life and faith with people who are more like ourselves. It can be uncomfortable to do the same with people who live life on the fringes of society and/or appear different. Yet these are the individuals whom the Master charges his servants to find and to fill his banquet room with. God's heart is for all people to come to fully know him and share life with him.

Our Friends in the Friendship and Together class have a hunger to know this God who loves them and desires them to be with him. And we have the awesome opportunity and responsibility to be God's servants, fulfilling his calling to us (Matt 28:19-20) with those he brings our way, no matter how much alike or different they appear to/from us.

How can you help with this ministry? You don't have to be there when we meet to be involved! Although we could use a couple people available then, too.

- 1) Pray that God would bring the people He wants involved to be present – friends, mentors, drivers, other helpers. (This means we need to talk with people about the ministry, and also consider it for ourselves!)
- 2) A photographer is needed on Sept 9 to take photos of each Friend & Mentor & table group. They don't need to be high quality photos. I'll need to print the pictures by the following class, Sept 23.
- 3) Help is needed with the design/layout/wording for a couple small projects (bookmark/card). It is something that can be photocopied and decorated, not a project to be uniquely made by each Friend.

- 4) 2-3 actors for the Christmas program will need to be available Nov 11 & 25 and Dec 9 during class to practice and then perform.
- 5) 1 mentor, drivers, substitute drivers and substitute mentors are also needed.

Friendship starts on September 9 and ends May 11, meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday each month from 7-8:15pm. If you have any questions, or sense that God is calling you to be a part of this ministry in some way, or know someone who would like more information, contact Tanya Obbink. Phone: 360-738-4718. Email: friendship@hopeinchristchurch.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Diane Button

It's here! What you've been waiting for since June!

As my last year as Children's Ministry Coordinator begins in just over a month, I find myself thinking, this is the last time I'll be posting the sign up for teachers, and making the schedule out, and planning a Christmas program in July and August!

If you would like to teach either one of the Sunday school classes, the sign up sheet is ready for you to do so. It will be posted once again near the credenza in the foyer. It's also available to be sent to you to look at in your email; you just need to let Marjie know.

As you think about signing up, know that you can sign up for a 3 week or 6 week session. And multiple sign ups are welcome!

The "Wonder" class is for our K-2nd graders. The "Marvel" class is for our 3rd-5th graders.

Aaron Speyer will be teaching the "Dive" class, which is our middle schoolers.

I am very grateful for all the support I receive each year in making the Sunday school classes available to our kids by those who are willing to teach them. This will be a year of feeling grateful for many things, and I will go forward knowing that I have God leading me through it all.

**Hope in Christ Church's next opportunity
to serve with Family Promise
will be from September 15th to 22nd.**



INTERFAITH COALITION
Partners in faith. Changing lives.



IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:

**THE THIRD ANNUAL BED RACE
TO HELP CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS
WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR AT:**

September 8th 2-4 PM at the Civic Field Parking Lot

For more information visit - <https://www.familypromisebedrace.com/>

AUGUST 2019

SERMONS

- 4 "Christ in Jude" - Jude
- 11 "Judgment in Jude" - Jude
- 18 "How Shall We Live?" - Jude
- 25 "When Words Are Not Enough" - Psalm 5

OFFERING

- 4 Kingdom Advancement Fund
- 11 Kingdom Advancement Fund
- 18 Outreach Fund
- 25 Kingdom Advancement Fund

PRAYER ROOM

- 4 Ken W
- 11 Christine S
- 18 Herm L
- 25 Lou K

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

GREETERS

- 4 Darryl & Gloria G
- 11 Avis & Jay K
- 18 Ali & Herm L
- 25 Deloris Perry, Helen B

COOKIES

- 4 Lorraine B, Lisa D
- 11 Gloria G, Faye H
- 18 Avis K, Marilyn K
- 25 Melissa K, Evelyn K

USHERS/*FOYER

- 4 Elaine S, *Lou K
- 11 Helen B, *Don K
- 18 Joe P, *Len V
- 25 Ken W, *Bud B

SERVING ASSISTANTS

- 4 Grace, Amariah, Maggie
- 11 Mattea, Zeke, Abee
- 18 Brenna, Amber, Caleb
- 25 Clara, Faith, Micah

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. We would like all attenders to be included!

AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship Communion	5	6 9:00 a.m. Elders Meeting	7 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	8 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	9	10
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. Roberts Group 4:30 p.m. Jesus Gathering	12	13 6:00 p.m. Richards' Group 6:30 p.m. Boer's Group	14 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	15 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Safe Church Training	19	20	21	22 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. Roberts Group	26	27 6:00 p.m. Richards' Group	28	29 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Team	30	31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6 Thaddeus S	15 Scott E	22 Heidi K
7 Don K	15 Zachariah K	24 Abee K
13 Joe Z	17 Dan G	31 Don N
15 Micah O		

