

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

September 2019 Issue

Let's Keep *BELIEVE*-ing!

By Ida Richards

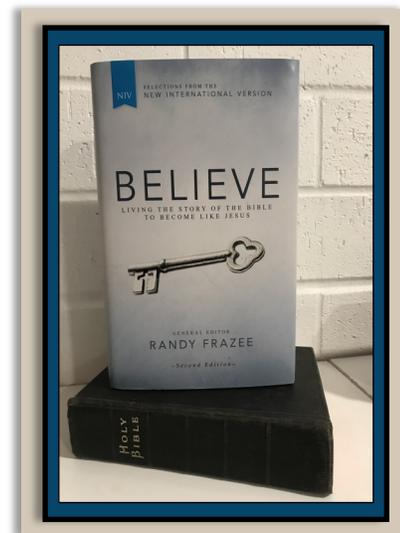
As I sit here on our deck, enjoying the soft evening breeze as the night sky tiptoes in above the trees, it's hard to imagine that fall is just around the corner! I'm remembering the many snippets of conversations overheard at church - of family camping and outings, beach exploring, mountain hikes, family visiting, summer fruit gathering, backyard fires, celebrations - all the sounds of summer. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for Your good, good gifts!

It's now time to begin to turn our thoughts to September. But first let's look back. We spent the first part of the year being reminded in Whom we believe, our great God who chooses to love us and to have a relationship with us. Our Heavenly Father sent His Son to pay our debt so we can be welcomed into His forever family, because of His grace alone. His Word gives us His truth - we are His. We are His church, His bride, to show the world His love and compassion, and to care for His creation until we are joined with all the saints in eternity.

This spring, we were then shown what God wants us to do; the spiritual practices of Christian life. We draw close to God when we worship, pray, and study His Word. We grow into His image when we focus our hearts on Him, putting 'self' aside, and choose to commit to one another. We honor Him by growing our Spiritual gifts by offering our time and resources, and by proclaiming our hope in Christ.

Now we are preparing to pick up our study of 'Believe' for the last 10 chapters. We will be encouraged to nurture

the passion and discipline to think and act like Jesus. He helps us grow and to become more like Him by growing in us the fruits of the Holy Spirit, Who He placed within us the moment we accepted his gift of eternal life.



“When we think and act like Jesus, empowered by his presence within us, little by little we become like Jesus. This is not only the most fruitful and abundant way to live, but it is truly the best gift we can give to our family and others who God sovereignly places into our lives.” (page 499)

Let's Believe!

Elders' Update

Presented by Ida Richards on Sunday, August 18, 2019

A few years ago, we held our first Veritas seminar, hosted by our newly formed Vitality team. It was that seminar where we were shown a graph, then we had to stand in a corner that best represented where we thought our church was heading - healthy-missional, stable, critical-moment, or at-risk. It was at that moment we had to face the truth for our church body's health. It was sobering.

Our Vitality team hosted further discussion events and seminars. And they led us to The Story. I think we have felt such hope and connection as we discovered God's Upper Story. And this year we are 2/3rds through Believe. The Vitality team helped us formulate our 10 missionary markers and we adopted our mission statement, "Glorifying God by Knowing, Living, and Proclaiming our Hope in Christ." We have since been challenged in thinking of how we share our faith and begin to live this mission statement.

A year ago, Diane came to the Elders to share her thoughts and vision for our church's children and youth ministries, and her decision to retire in June 2020. In January she shared this with the children and with all of you. The Elders have taken her wise observations and have been pondering the statistics she shared with the aging of our children. We now have children who are creating their Youth Group, under the guidance of Clair and Hildred Abee. We've also been reading books, praying, and discussing our vision, along with our 5 year 'dream' for our church body.

After 2 Elder retreats, we found we have a common goal and yet diverse dreams!! But what we all agree on, for our near future, is a need for an Associate Pastor of youth, outreach, and missions. We see that as we develop the Children's and Youth ministry, we will welcome children and youth to join ours. With these children come new families. Our hope and prayer is they will seek and find a place to belong here. Our desire is to see our youth grow into strong, independently believing adults. And we also hope our children will continue to develop a heart for missions, that will then grow our hearts for these missions as well.

We are asking you to be with us in prayer as we begin the task of developing a vision and job description, and how this will look for our budget. Do you feel this excitement the same as we do - that this is where God is leading us? Will you pray for us to yield to God's leading, and for us to trust His power and wisdom in finding the person He has chosen for our church? As we develop the budget, please pray for our willingness to walk with God in the steps that we feel He is choosing. Pray for all of us to grab hold of His Vision!

May we all 'throw our leg over the side of the boat, fix our eyes on Jesus, and walk to His side!'"

Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month I am featuring Don N., who just made his public profession of faith in church last Sunday.

Don was born in Seattle, Washington. He has three brothers on his mother's side and one brother on his father's side. He also has ten half-sisters. His mother left his father when Don was a one-year-old, and she later remarried. She currently lives in Springdale, Washington near Spokane.

Don attended a Special Education School in Everett, Washington and he graduated from Mariner High School in Everett. He worked for Marvel Industries making survey sticks for roads in Everett for about 18 years. He also was employed with BF Goodrich doing janitorial work in Everett for about six months. Then he worked for a RV park in Bellingham in 2004 doing janitorial work, and he stayed there for about ten years.

When Don was about eight years old, his mother sent him to church. He was saved when he was 21 and attending an independent Baptist Church in Everett. There he was baptized and made profession of faith. He never really had an "aha" moment when he was saved, but it was a gradual thing. He really loves our church and enjoys our Friendship program where he is in the "Together class" led by Hern Laninga. He enjoys the sermons in our church and really appreciates seeing the words on the screen.

Don has been living at Washington Square for about 17 years. He first was in a studio and later a one-bedroom apartment on the fifth floor. He has a girlfriend, Debra, who lives in the same complex on the first floor. They both enjoy watching football games with the Seattle Seahawks, and also Mariner games and basketball games, such as the Storms team. He enjoys walking his dog and working in his garden

box where he grows tomatoes and strawberries.

We're happy that Don made his profession of faith and joined our church. Welcome to full membership in our church, Don!

Family Promise

By Ali Laninga

We are gearing up for our next Family Promise Week of September 15-22. There will be a short meeting following the service next week (September 1) to sign up for various ways to serve. There are opportunities for dinner prep, evening hosts, overnight hosts, and laundry volunteers. If you are unable to be there next Sunday but are willing to serve you can contact Lorraine Brouwer or Ali Laninga.



of Whatcom County

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

Giving in July 2019

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 7,700	\$ 28,123
General Fund Offerings	\$19,027	\$169,820
Rent / Utilities Income	3,728	20,126
Interest Income - Undesignated	<u>66</u>	<u>310</u>
Total Undesignated Income	22,821	190,256
General Fund Expenses	<u>(18,198)</u>	<u>(159,240)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 4,623</u>	<u>\$ 31,016</u>
Total 2019 budget, including ministry quotas	\$ 234,133	
Year-to-Date Budget for 12 months	\$ 156,089	
Total Undesignated Income	<u>190,256</u>	
Income Over (Under) Budget	<u>\$ 34,167</u>	

Loan Balances:
Classis: \$ 15,000

Whatcom Community News

GOSPEL MUSIC EVENT COMING: Faithfest will return to Lynden from 6 p.m. Sept. 20 to noon Sept. 22 at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds. The lineup includes the Taito Family, Kevin Mills, Tim Lovelace, Evergreen 3 and, of course, the Keepers of the Faith. The concert will start off with singing some great hymns of the faith. For the first time at Faithfest, admission is free. For more info, visit the website www.faithfestevents.com or call (360) 354-4815.

SONLIGHT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Women are invited to worship, eat, laugh, cry and be stretched by author and speaker Melissa Maimone on Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sonlight Community Church. She will present "The Messy Magnificent Life" and provide down-to-earth lessons, practical applications, and life-changing perspectives to real women who are living real lives in the midst of real problems. The early bird price is \$25 through next Sunday, Sept. 1, and \$30 after (lunch is included). For more information and to register, visit sonlightchurch.com or call (360) 354-3434.

CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED FOR MOPS: Moms@1st is in need of helpers to love on their kids during their MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers) meetings. Moms from many churches in Lynden meet every other Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at First CRC. Helpers are needed for the 4- to 6-year-olds and the babies. Of course, any help or subs/floaters are more than welcome. There are about 58 kids (up to age 5) if everyone shows up. Meetings start again on Sept. 10. If you'd like to join the team or want more information about the ministry, contact Dora Brouwer at (360) 510-3206.

SEA MAR NEEDS HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION: Sea Mar Everson wants to connect with local churches to build a large volunteer base that will provide transportation for pregnant mothers. The clinic is part of a community-based organization committed to providing comprehensive health, human, housing, education, and cultural services to diverse communities regardless of ability to pay. Many migrant farm workers in the area do not have access to transportation. In particular, pregnant mothers have been unable to receive prenatal care, which is crucial for the prevention of many avoidable complications. If your congregation is interested, please contact Daniel Lee at (503) 453-0013 or ddylee@uw.edu.

Sunday School

Begins September 8th!

It's time! I hope to make this last year as Children's Ministries Coordinator as fun and meaningful as I can for the kids, and myself!

Sunday school kicks off September 8th for the kids. The three classes of Sunday School and "Children and Worship" will all meet upstairs in the Administrative Building, beginning at 11:00 a.m. A reminder to the parents of young children: please make sure you have taken care of a visit to the restroom for your kids before the lesson begins.

I appreciate so much the willingness of some of you to teach these amazing kids, and that many slots to teach have been filled. There are still some to be filled, and it would be great to have them all filled by the end of September, so we can rest easy that there will be teachers in these classrooms!

In God's love,

Diane B

CLASS LISTS

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

Zachariah

Elisha

Kaitlyn

WONDER

Eliana

John

Abigail

MARVEL

Brenna

Alice

Evan

Amariah

Clara

Micah

DIVE

Abee

Faith

Grace

Michal

Maggie

Nathan

Thad



Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship

Begins September 19th!!

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!

Deacon's Digest

By Elaine Snapper

The deacons would like to give you some more reminders about offerings. Please put your giving number on your checks. Giving numbers can be found on the official gift receipt distributed by the deacons in January for tax return purposes. You can also ask a deacon to look it up for you. This saves a step for those who prepare the bank deposits, and they really appreciate it.

The deacons are planning another hymn sing on Sunday evening, October 6th. Cider and "Timbits" from Tim Hortons will be served afterwards. Be sure to put this date on your calendar.

Items of Interest from August's Council Meeting

By Herman Laninga

1. Our current Vitality Team is completing it's work this week and recruiting has begun to form a new team. Many thanks to the present team for their work this past year: Scott Emory, Faye Hop, Jay Kaemingk, Doug Konn, Pastor Scott, Christine Speyer and Ken Wick. Please contact Pastor Scott if you have an interest in learning about/serving on this visioning team.
2. Don N and Amber O met with the Elders to make their Profession of Faith. Both were accepted into full membership. We rejoice with them and thank God for their decision
3. The high school group is beginning to redecorate the basement space for their use in the Ministry House and are looking for a few furniture items. Contact Clair and Hildred Abee, sponsors, for a needs list.
4. Our study of Believe in Adult Sunday School will resume Sept. 8. We will be concluding the study early December. A committee consisting of Pastor Scott, Elder Ida Richards and members Philip Bergman and Phil Skovron are reviewing material for use starting Jan. 2020.
5. Classis North Cascades: Pastor Scott, Elder Clair Abee and Deacon Elaine Snapper will be our delegates when the new Classis meets on Sept. 25 for the purpose of adopting documents of Incorporation and By-Laws.
6. Family Visiting: Elder/Deacon teams have adopted 1 Peter 3:15 as a basis for discussion as they meet with the members of their districts this year.
7. Rockelle Ruiten announced that fund raising for the mission trip to Ethiopia is well under way! Praise God for his provision! Those preparing to join the Cornwall Church sponsored trip are Brian & Abee, Dan & Amber and Mark & Michal.
8. Council is in the process of reviewing/updating our Safe Church policy. A congregational meeting to review/adopt the revised policy is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 18 following the service.



September 2019



Not able to serve when scheduled? Please call someone on the list and make a plan to trade dates. Thank you for your help!

Offering Schedule

- 1 Kingdom Advancement
- 8 Kingdom Advancement
- 15 Outreach Fund
- 22 Kingdom Advancement
- 29 Benevolence Fund

Prayer Room

- 1 Chuck D
- 8 Len V
- 15 Del B
- 22 Lanny S
- 29 Ev K

Greeters Schedule

- 1 Lisa O, Joe P
- 8 Lanny & Christine S
- 15 Jerry & Faye H
- 22 Don & Tena V
- 29 David & Ida R., Junior J.

Serving Assistants

- 1 Michal, Mattea, Grace
- 8 Abee, Kylie, Caleb
- 15 Amariah, Maggie, Chantel
- 22 Brenna, Amber, Faith
- 29 Clara, Zeke, Micah

“Believe” Chapter Reading at Home

- Week of Sep. 1st-7th Read Chapter 21 (Love)
- Week of Sep. 8th-14th Read Chapter 22 (Joy)
- Week of Sep. 15th-21st Read Chapter 23 (Peace)
- Week of Sep. 22nd-28th Read Chapter 24 (Self-control)
- Week of Sep. 29th-Oct. 5th Read Chapter 25 (Hope)

Cookie Schedule

- 1 Ali L, Tanya O
- 8 Lisa O, Deloris P
- 15 Mona R, Darlys R
- 22 Jen R, Joanne S
- 29 Jan S, Rockelle R

Ushering Schedule/*Foyer

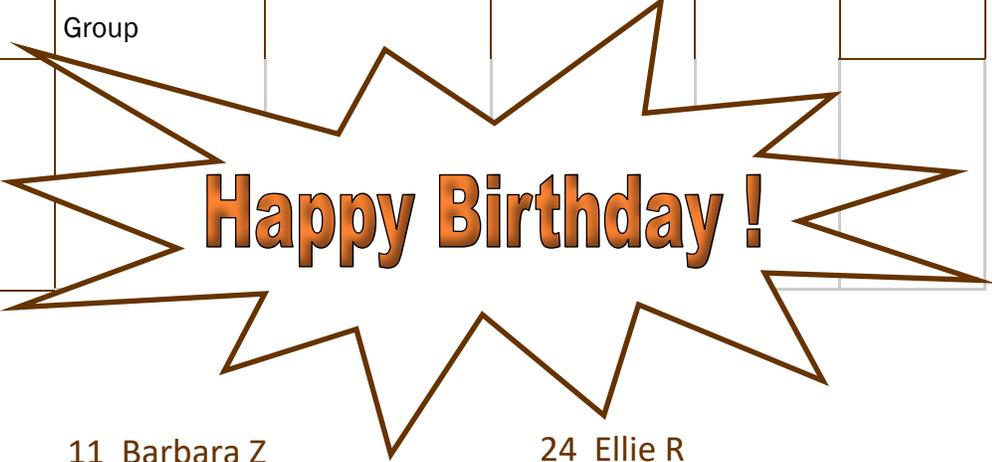
- 1 Hildred & *Clair A
- 8 Barb & *Joe Z
- 15 Helen B, *Bud B
- 22 Elaine S, *Don K
- 29 Lou K, *Ken W

Sunday School Council Observer

- 1 No Sunday School
- 8 Elaine S
- 15 Tena V
- 22 Ev K
- 29 Herm L

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.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Worship/Communion	2	3 6:00 PM Richard's Group	4 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	5 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday school Noon Picnic @ Birch Bay 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering 7:00 PM Laninga Group	9 7:00 PM Friendship Class	10 10:00 AM Elders Meeting	11 7:00 PM Council Meeting	12 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday school	16 6:00 PM G.E.M.S.	17	18	19 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Study, Praise Team	20	21
FAMILY PROMISE WEEK						
22 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday school 4:30 PM Roberts' Group 7:00 PM Laninga Group	23 7:00 PM Friendship Class	24 6:00 PM Richard's Group 6:30 PM Boer's Group	25 7:00 PM Worship Planning Team	26 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Study, Praise Team	27	28
29 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday school	30 6:00 PM G.E.M.S.					

3 Lorraine B
6 Kyle S
6 Chantel O
11 Jan S

11 Barbara Z
15 Troy J
16 Abigail C
16 Rochelle S
19 Isaac S

24 Ellie R
25 Jennifer B
28 Aaron S
30 Jonathan S