

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

February 2020 Issue

Come on In! Pursuing a Heart of Hospitality

By Katie Heid



This article was written at Christmas time by Katie Heid, but the principles apply year-round. The full article may be found at christianwomenonline.net and has been copied here with their permission.

The term “hospitality” has been hijacked by Pinterest, Rachel Ray, and Good Housekeeping. Facebook video recipes only feed the delusion that I can whip up those delicious dishes; pictures of friends and their smiling families make me wonder why my brood can’t get it together. These days, the only one I’m interested in hearing from is Netflix, who tells me to give it all up and binge a new show.

These pressures turn up the heat incrementally for me each year. Before I know it, I’ve worked myself into a tizzy, forgetting that the world’s definition of hospitality during this busy time of year is never what God intended for us.

Hospitality isn’t about the state of our homes; it’s about the state of our hearts.

I Peter 4:8-10 lays out the nitty gritty of true hospitality.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another

without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

There isn’t one right way to offer hospitality since people bring a variety of gifts, talents, and skills to the table. Christ-like hospitality is the willingness to invite others into the messiness of our hearts, and eventually our homes, while showing genuine interest in their lives.

HOW CAN WE SHOW HOSPITALITY ?

Love each other. This command does not say, “Invite your friend over after your laundry pile is under control” nor does it suggest, “Make individualized placeholders before inviting friends over for dinner.” Loving people as Christ does is all that’s required. It’s about tackling our daily tasks while being mindful of others. Long lines while Christmas shopping? Show grace. That person who stole your parking space? Smile and wave. Off-the-wall comments from relatives around the dinner table? Take a breath and hold your tongue. Loving each other means recognizing the private, personal battles people fight that are often heightened around the holiday season, then extending grace.

Stop grumbling. Stop comparing your version [of hospitality] to someone else’s. Extroverts, who derive their energy from others, typically worry about their imperfect home, not the people in it; introverts, who recharge their batteries with alone time, worry about people invading their space. What do both have in common? Sincere hearts. Find out where you fit on the continuum, then ask God ways to show your version of hospitality.

Use your gifts. Identify three things you do well. Do you send encouraging notes by mail? Do you love to cook?

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Has God blessed you with extra money this month? Are you an empty nester with extra space? Do you possess more free time than a friend? Are you a good listener? Those are all gifts fitting with the Biblical definition of hospitality. While we can't be everything to everyone, God will give us the wisdom to determine how our gifts should be doled out.

Keep staples on hand. Peter never mentioned this in the above verse, but I'd wager much of the stress of opening our homes is tied to what may or may not be in our fridge. Years ago, a mentor told me about the group of friends they entertained every Sunday night. They were all newlyweds with small budgets, so they simply plopped a toaster in the center of their table along with a loaf of bread, a jar of peanut butter, and good conversation.

It's the people, not the menu, which brings us together. These standbys keep me from freaking out when last minute guests arrive: Keep a pizza in the freezer, along with a Pepperidge Farm cake, Sara Lee pie, or carton of ice cream. For a quick appetizer, layer canned refried beans, sour cream, taco seasoning, and shredded cheese in a pan. Serve with tortilla chips. These are easy ingredients to keep on hand, cost less than \$5, and can be whipped up in minutes. People may compliment your food initially, but they'll remember how you fed their soul years later.

It's been said that Jesus is the reason for the season, and I doubt the reason He came was for us to shut our doors because we're stressed about our messy house or empty fridge. After all, Jesus was born in a dirty manger. His version of hospitality doesn't rely on our abilities. All Jesus requires is an open heart, and eventually, an open door.

Family Promise Volunteer Appreciation Coffee

By Ali Laninga, F.P. Coordinator

We have now been involved for two years with Family Promise of Whatcom County serving homeless families. HICC has served a total of 7 weeks during this span of time. We could not have done this without the help of 30+ volunteers from Hope in Christ Church. Our volunteers have participated in preparing and serving meals, hanging out as Evening Hosts, spending the night, helping with set up and take down, doing laundry, baking cookies, etc. To show our appreciation, we would like to host a Volunteer Appreciation Coffee on Friday, February 21 @ 10:00 a.m. at the church. Please join us for a time of fellowship and maybe even sharing a few stories with each other. We would also like to invite anyone who might be interested in hearing more about Family Promise.

As we look ahead and plan for this new year, we again will be participating as follows:

- **March 15-22**
- **May 24-31**
- **July 12-19**
- **October 25-November 1**



February Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 8 Brian K. | 17 Ida R. |
| 8 Joanne S. | 19 Tanya O. |
| 11 Phil S. | 20 Josiah C. |
| 13 Aleya C. | 26 Jen R. |
| 17 Faye H. | 27 Doug K. |

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for January 2020

By Joe Strong

It is very hard to listen to the testimony of person after person who have testified how hard it was to go through the process of entering the U.S. as a refugee. Each person voluntarily turned themselves in to the appropriate authorities at the border and before they know it they were locked up with hardened criminals in a Federal Prison. Several have been detained for months without knowing if they were going to be allowed into the country. Not one has been charged with a crime. When they finally get out they have definitely been traumatized. The women just cry and cry. That hurts my heart.

In early December, Marco and Nilda, members of our Amor Viviente Church, once again hosted a night for married couples. This couple from Venezuela have led several retreats in which they give sound biblical advice along with games and a dinner for the churches in Mt. Vernon and Lynden. We also include those who have been married and for some reason are now single. This is always an excellent evening. Everybody wants to be there.

I have been having very moving visits in the Whatcom County Jail. I know that is because so many people pray for me on Mondays. Recently, I have seen a hardened gang leader, Jimmy, who refused to even accept a Bible, start reading one and discussing it with me. Another man Rigo, who completely acted like a hot shot when I first spoke with him, had a complete about-face and now has accepted the book *The Purpose Driven Life* and is reading the Bible. I had an opportunity to work with both the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Nation, becoming a liaison for both tribes. It develops trust with the inmates. I get to share Jesus with each person.

Several Christian Reformed Churches reached out to those less fortunate in the Hispanic community during Christmas and blessed families in our churches. During this time of the year many migrant people cannot find work.

One of the men who lived in our Bridges of Hope house for a year has now become the house manager. Wow! God has led Dustin to want to invest back into the community. Our board gets stretched by the different men who come through our house. Continue praying for our board as well as the men in our house. Thank you for your support of Northwest Hispanic Ministry.

(NWHM, 701 W. Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273)

Interfaith Coalition Annual Hope Auction

Saturday, March 28th, 5:30pm, Four Points by Sheraton

For over 25 years, Interfaith's Hope Auction has brought fellowship, inspiration, and hope to our community while raising awareness and support for our neighbors in need. Please join us for an evening that pulls together heart and effort in eliminating family homelessness and poverty. There are many ways to participate: donate an auction item, purchase tickets, or consider sponsorship of the event. Call or go to our website for more info or to purchase tickets: 360-734-3983, interfaith-coalition.org.



Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper



This month I am featuring Deloris P., who was born in Custer, in the Black Hills in South Dakota. There were three girls and two boys in the family. When she was six years old the family moved to Bellingham where her father served as a Pentecostal minister traveling between Washington and Canada. He also worked in the shipyards.

Deloris attended Columbia Grade School, Whatcom Middle School and Bellingham High School. She quit school in Feb. just before she graduated to get married to her husband Marvin, who was in the Navy stationed in San Diego. She had two children from that marriage, Sharon and Stanley.

As far as employment, Deloris started working as a cook's helper at the age of 13 during the summer at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, Calif. She also worked at the French Hand Laundry in Pasadena. Other jobs she had were working in the laundry, canneries, serving as a waitress, cleaning homes, and as a cook at both St. Luke's and St. Joseph's Hospitals.

She met Dale P. while she was working as a waitress at the Royal Inn in Bellingham. She had waited on him several times, and he asked her out. They were married ten days later. They had one son, Doug, together, and the marriage lasted until he passed away 47 years later.

Deloris grew up in the church. Her sister-in-law, Delores invited her to come to Bellingham CRC several years ago. She went a few times with her and decided she wanted to join. Dale joined her about the fifth time she attended. They both have really enjoyed our church. She served as a deacon for a term, attends Bible study there, and has worked on the hospitality committee. She makes a wonderful breakfast for the congregation when they do clean-up on Saturdays. Dale really enjoyed the men's coffee hour and clean-up group.

For hobbies Deloris really enjoyed square dancing and

bowling. She currently enjoys playing canasta, coloring, and playing Mexican train.

We are so glad Deloris and Dale started attending our church. Deloris has so much ambition and gets lots of things accomplished in short order. She is also very generous in giving to others.

Giving in December 2019

| | <u>Dec</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Designated Fund Offerings: | \$ 4,295 | \$ 4,295 |
| General Fund Offerings | \$21,195 | \$ 21,195 |
| Rent / Utilities Income | 2,557 | 2,557 |
| Interest Income - Undesignated | <u>42</u> | <u>42</u> |
| Total Undesignated Income | 23,793 | 23,793 |
| General Fund Expenses | <u>(10,640)</u> | <u>(10,640)</u> |
| Income Over (Under) Expenses | <u>\$ 13,154</u> | <u>\$ 13,154</u> |
| Total 2019 budget, including ministry quotas | | \$ 273,588 |
| Year-to-Date Budget for 1 month | | \$ 22,799 |
| Total Undesignated Income | | <u>23,793</u> |
| Income Over (Under) Budget | | <u>\$ 994</u> |

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 12,500

Deacon's Digest

By Elaine Snapper

The deacons met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

The year-end giving letters have been prepared and will be distributed by the deacons to the people in their districts.

Thank you notes will be sent out within the next two months to team members at our church.

Interfaith Coalition has requested a contribution for their fundraiser. The deacons authorized contributing a basket. They will be finding someone to make up a lovely basket for the event.

The deacons approved renewal of the movie license in order that movies can be shown at our church. Tentatively we have set a date for a movie night for Friday, February 28. Popcorn, M & M's and pop/juice will be served.

February 2020

Sermons

- 2/2 Living as Witnesses to the Reality of Christ
Acts 1:6-11
- 2/9 God is not For or Against Political Parties
Joshua 5:13-15
- 2/16 Seek the Welfare of Your City
Jeremiah 29:1-9
- 2/23 Pray and Don't Lose Heart
Luke 18:1-8

Offerings

- 2/2 Kingdom Advancement Fund
- 2/9 Kingdom Advancement Fund
- 2/16 Outreach Fund
- 2/23 Kingdom Advancement Fund

Children's Leaders

- 2/2 Brian K., Jolene S., Diane B., Michal
- 2/9 Brian K., Jolene S., Jen R., Abee
- 2/16 Brian K., Jolene S., Marjie H., Amber
- 2/23 Brian K., Daniel O., Zeke, (teacher needed)

Sun. School Observers

- 2/2 Tena V.
- 2/9 Evelyn K.
- 2/16 Clair & Hildred A.
- 2/23 Ida R.

Serving Assistants

- 2/2 Abee, Amber, Faith
- 2/9 Micah, Amariah, Maggie
- 2/16 Brenna, Chantel, Caleb
- 2/23 Grace, Mattea, Clara

Greeters

- 2/2 Del & Pat B.
- 2/9 Faye & Jerry H.
- 2/16 Ev & Lou K.
- 2/23 Herm & Ali L.

Cookies

- 2/2 Jan S., Joanne S.
- 2/9 Jolene S., Elaine S.
- 2/16 Christine S., Ruth S.
- 2/23 Donna V., Tena V.

Prayer Room

- 2/2 Christine S.
- 2/9 Chuck D.
- 2/16 Lou K.
- 2/23 Lorraine B.

Ushers/*Foyer

- 2/2 Don K., Joe P.
- 2/9 Len V., Helen B.
- 2/16 Clair & Hildred A.
- 2/23 Ken W., Elaine S.

**UNABLE TO SERVE
ON YOUR DATE?
PLEASE CALL SOMEONE ELSE ON
THE LIST AND TRADE DAYS.**

Thank you!



February 2020

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 11:00 a.m. Sunday School | 3 6:00 p.m. GEMS 7:00 p.m. Friendship Mentors | 4 9:00 p.m. Elders meeting | 5 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Deacons | 6 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team | 7 | 8 |
| 9 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 | 10 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class | 11 6:00 p.m. Richards' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Boer's Bible Study | 12 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Council | 13 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School | 17 6:00 p.m. GEMS | 18 6:00 p.m. Richards' Bible Study | 19 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study | 20 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team | 21 10:00 a.m. Family Promise Volunteers Coffee | 22 |
| 23 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:30 pm Roberts' Group 7:00 p.m. Laninga Group | 24 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class | 25 6:30 p.m. Boer's Bible Study | 26 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team | 27 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Praise Team | 28 Movie Night | 29 |