

Heartbeat



Hope In Christ Church
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Motivations Matter

Pastor Scott Roberts

The reason why a person does something is often as important as what they are doing. This doesn't mean that evil things done for good reasons should be excused, but it does mean that sometimes good things are done for the wrong reasons. In the past week I have had this conversation twice in different settings, so maybe it will benefit others as well.

Imagine a wife who gets up in the morning and cooks a great breakfast, cleans the house impeccably and ensures the kids stay quiet while her husband is sleeping so that he can rest and get his sleep until he is ready to come and eat. On first glance, this looks wonderful, who could possibly find fault? The one who knows her motivations might. There are a number of possible motivations, of which I will present two at opposite ends of the spectrum. One woman may do these things in order to avoid being beaten by her alcoholic and controlling husband. The other does them as a display of love to her children and husband. I am not belittling or condemning the woman in an abusive relationship. She has found a way to survive a terrible situation which no woman should ever be expected to endure. But the reasons for her 'good deeds' are not love of others, but love of self and desire for self-preservation and probably fear. The right things done for the wrong reasons.

Similarly, a man may bring his wife flowers, buy her nice clothes and treat her well in public; but the motivation isn't from love of her, but out of a desire to be thought well of by others. His good actions don't flow from love of another but love of himself and so they are tainted. I present these scenarios to ask a simple question related to our faith and its practice: Do your actions flow from a love of God or from some other love? Do you love others and treat them well be-

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“Ask yourself –

why you are doing

this or that

and be honest

with yourself.”

cause it is a response to having experienced God’s love? Or do you act like you love others because you are trying to earn God’s love or look good to others or make a good name for yourself? Do you engage the word of God and pray to earn God’s approval or because you already have God’s approval and want to know him better? Our motivations matter. God looks upon the heart as well as the hand. He looks upon our deeds but also the reasons why we are doing them.

It will never suffice to say to God – “I did the right things.” For salvation is “by grace through faith and this not of ourselves it is the gift of God so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). Likewise, it is not enough to say, “My heart was pure, even if my actions were wrong.” For the “heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick” (Jer. 17:9) Furthermore, it is out of the heart that all the actions of life spring (Prov. 4:23).

So, as you engage in the actions of the coming month, take some time and reflect upon the motivations of your heart. Ask yourself – why you are doing this or that and be honest with yourself. If you find that some of your motivations are wrong, then confess and ask God to work in you to both will and to do what is right (Phil. 2:13) so that your life and the lives of those around you may be pleasing in every way and representative of the new life that God brings to his children – new hearts as well as new hands.



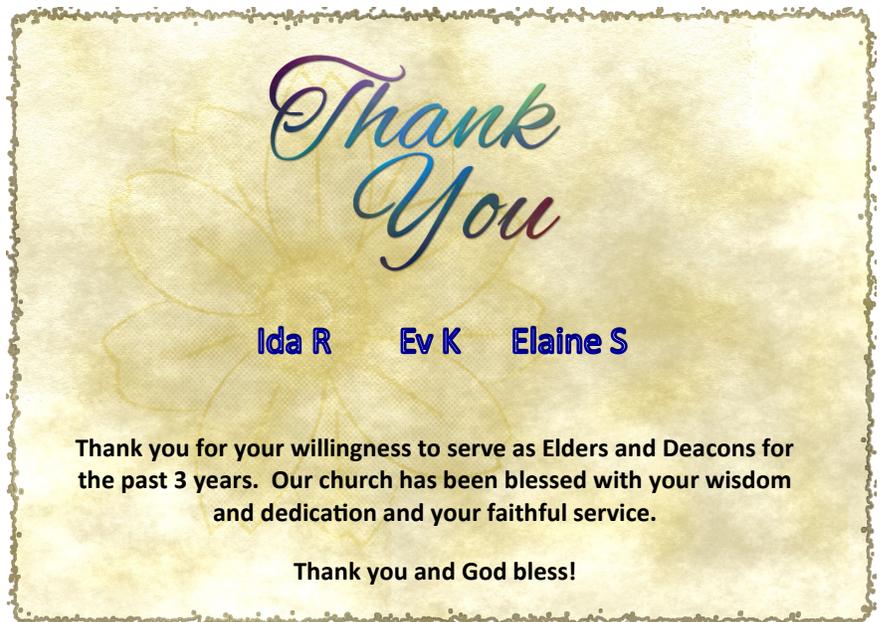
Bless the Lord, Oh my soul...



*We give thanks unto the Lord
For your love and faithfulness
In all the little things you do
With a heart of thankfulness
We do so appreciate you
And cannot truly express
Just how much you mean to us,
For we are truly blessed.*

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<https://www.heavensinspirations.com/appreciation.html>



Elder/Deacon Nominations

It's that time of year when we elect Deacons and Elders. It's in Deacons and Elders that we see the love of Christ for his people. As the Lord of the church he appoints leaders and by his Spirit equips them so that believers may grow in faith, develop disciplined Christian living, serve others in selfless love and share with all the good news of salvation. He taught us the spirit of true leadership when he said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:26-28).

Deacons are chosen to give leadership to diaconal ministry. In this ministry, deacons empower members of their own congregation and partner with neighboring churches, Christian services, and local social agencies. Diaconal Ministry, to touch people's lives as Christ's hands and feet, focuses mainly on the following areas: Compassion, Community Ministry, Stewardship and Justice.

The elders, with the minister, shall oversee the doctrine and life of the members of the congregation and fellow office bearers, shall exercise admonition and discipline along with pastoral care in the congregation, shall participate in and promote evangelism, and shall defend the faith.

<https://network.crcna.org/deacons/job-descriptions-elders-and-deacons>

The Council of Hope In Christ is presenting the following nominations for 1 Deacon position...

Mike B Philip B

The Council of Hope In Christ is presenting the following nominations for 2 Elder positions...

Faye H Don R Lou K
David R Mark R

We will have a congregational meeting on May 16 to vote on this slate of nominations. On May 23 we will draw lots for Deacons and Elders.

We ask that you pray for these servants and the nomination process.





Family Promise

On April 2nd, Family Promise of Whatcom County celebrated 3 years of providing services for families experiencing homelessness. In that time 38 families have been served and were able to find housing. Hope in Christ Church has been involved since the beginning and the past year has been helping by providing meals and meal kits (selected from a cookbook by the clients.) Thank you to all who have helped by volunteering to make and deliver food. It's been greatly appreciated by the families.

Family Promise is currently serving 4 families in various locations in Bellingham and Ferndale. Our next week to help with meals and meal kits is the week of May 23. Please call Lorraine B or Terry V if you are able to help. Our responsibility is to provide and deliver a couple of meals on Thursday May 27, or to provide the ingredients for meal kits that the family cooks.

Upcoming weeks: July 12 and October 25.



*“Transforming the lives of families experiencing homelessness.
Because every child deserves a home. “*

Fellowship

Food

Fun

Church Picnic

From Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Gals will be planning a Church picnic at Birch State Park sometime the latter part of May. Hopefully a Saturday (day not determined) starting at 3:00 PM with dinner at 5:00ish. We do want a sunny day and if someone would like to organize games etc., please call Ruth or Elaine S. You will be kept informed of date and time either by bulletin or email announcement. Hope this will get our Church family together for Fellowship, Food and Fun.



Serving Schedule

May 2021



Greeter Schedule

- 2 Clair & Hildred A
- 9 Jerry & Faye H
- 16 Gina N & Joe P
- 23 Dave & Ida R
- 30 Lanny & Christine S

Prayer Room

- 2 Ida R
- 9 Lanny S
- 16 Len V
- 23 Terry V
- 30 Chuck D

*Not able to
serve when
scheduled?*

*Please call
someone to
take your
place.*

*Thank you for
your help!*



June 2021

Greeter Schedule

- 6 Lou & Ev K
- 13 Lou & Ev K
- 20 Clair & Hildred A
- 27 Gina N & Joe P

Prayer Room

- 6 Tanya O
- 13 Alice B
- 20 Lou K
- 27 Terry V



“to serve the Lord our God is the heartbeat of our mission”

- Steve Green

Deacons Digest

By Elaine Snapper

The deacons met via Zoom on April 7, 2021 for the April meeting.

Unfinished business was discussed. Ruth contacted a former attendee of our church to inquire about his health. A donation receipt was sent for the wheelchair earlier this year.

It was noted that there are three deacon nominees who are willing to serve. Dates were selected for the names to be published in the bulletin, for congregational voting, drawing of lots and installation of the new officers.

Opportunities to be involved were discussed. We want to encourage involvement, encourage relationships, and encourage serving in the community. The date of April 17 was set for cleanup of our campus. Also discussed was a possible future bbq picnic in the summer. Also, a possible Birch Bay picnic with a bonfire and s'mores in the summer.

Cash management was discussed. Whether money in the general fund more than three months should be shifted from the savings account to a higher yielding investment. Jennifer was to look into interest rates.

Districts contacts and prayers for people in our district took place.

Deacons



reach out to those in need

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

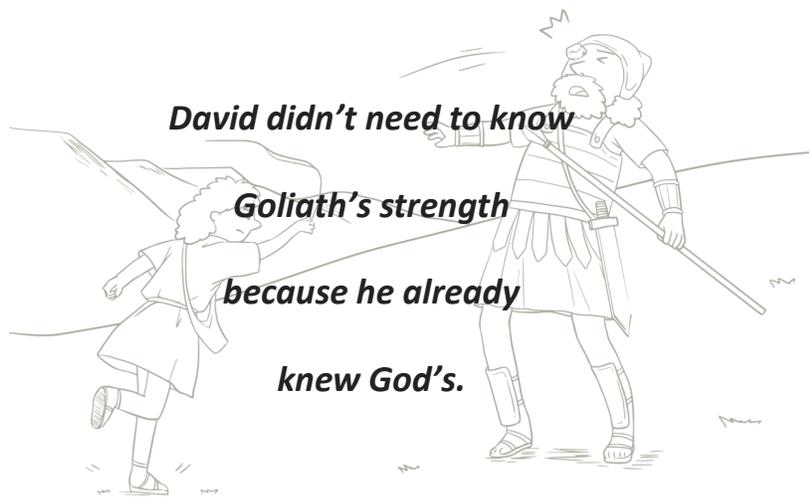


Giving in March 2021

	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 2,545	\$ 10,987
General Fund Offerings	\$ 30,576	\$102,925
Rent / Utilities Income	2,926	10,961
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	26,700
Interest Income - Undesignated	<u>17</u>	<u>74</u>
Total Undesignated Income	33,519	140,660
General Fund Expenses	<u>(18,131)</u>	<u>(72,172)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 15,388</u>	<u>\$ 68,488</u>
Total 2021 budget, including ministry quotas	\$281,796	
Year-to-Date Budget for 4 months	\$ 93,932	
Total Undesignated Income		<u>140,660</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 46,728</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 10,000



Reflection Corner



*You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:11*

Happy Birthday!



May the abundance
of the Love of Christ
fill all the days of
your life.

Have a blessed
birthday!



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 am Worship Service / Communion	3	4	5 11:30 am Elders Mtg 7pm Deacons Mtg	6 6:30 am Men's Small Group	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship Service	10	11	12 7pm Council Mtg	13 6:30 am Men's Small Group	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship Service 11am Congregational Meeting	17	18	19	20 6:30 am Men's Small Group	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship Service/ Drawing of lots	24	25	26	27 6:30 am Men's Small Group	28	29
Family Promise Week						
30 9:30 am Worship Service	31 					