

Heartbeat

When People Pray, True Community is Built

By Pastor Scott Roberts

As we continue to explore what it means to be and develop as a church where community is fashioned, it is imperative that we address the role of prayer. Prayer is central to becoming a people who have welcoming, vulnerable, and serving relationships. To pray together is to come from our disparate places and meet at the foot of the Almighty God in worship and intercession. This naturally places people on an even footing and keeps all our eyes fixed on Christ. As we pray together, our hearts are revealed in the words and thoughts and desires which we present. This can be vulnerable, but it is a vulnerability one must take, for God knows our hearts and we can't lie to him, pretend to want things, or even try to look good to others without it drastically impinging upon the transparency that helps a true community to thrive. So from a human standpoint, the act of prayer is a powerful way to allow oneself to be known by others.

But what about the divine aspect of praying with others? As we pray, we are bringing the hurts, needs, desires, thanks, and rejoicings of one another to the Father. We are asking him to meet with and serve those in our midst and those we do not know but others have brought. As we

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pray, God answers – sometimes yes (and we rejoice), sometimes no (and we grieve together), and sometimes not yet (and so we wait). All three responses build a community through good, bad, and uncertain times. What a marvelous thing God does when people pray.

Given these simple truths, how can we at HiCC become a praying community? There are countless ways – the easiest is for each person to use the church directory and pray for the other members of the congregation. Consider calling someone each week and asking them how you can pray for them. Or write a note to a person each week letting them know what you have been praying for them. Or consider spending a Sunday morning in the prayer room praying for your brothers and sisters in Christ who are worshipping right outside the door. Pray for God to touch and meet his people.

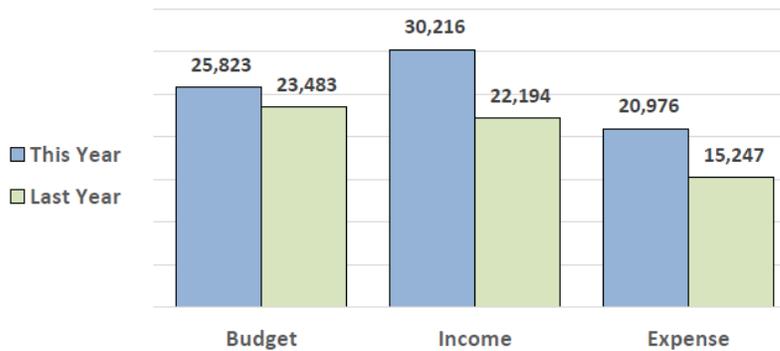
Next is to pray with one or more people. Take opportunities when people ask for prayer to stop right then and pray for them. They have asked, you can join them and so build a bond of Christian solidarity with them in their need. Consider joining a prayer group at the church on Sunday mornings before the service or coming to a special prayer service for our nation. Maybe God is laying it on your heart to start a prayer meeting to regularly pray for something specific in our church, nation, world, or community. If so, speak with Pastor Scott about how to book some space in the church and then invite others to join you. Consider joining our Tuesday Lunchtime Zoom prayer meeting.

Maybe you would like to lead a congregational prayer on a Sunday morning. What a great way to build community and help to lead the body of Christ into the presence of God. These ways will help us to become a fuller picture of what it means to be a body that fellowships, loves, serves, and knows one another and the LORD.

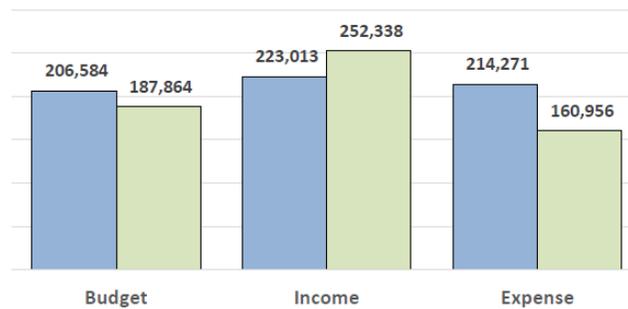


HOPE
IN CHRIST
CHURCH
JULY
GIVING

Monthly Financial Update – July



Eight Months – December to July



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN WHATCOM COUNTY

VOLUNTEER WITH JESUS TAXI: Whatcom County Love INC (In the Name of Christ) is offering mini-missions trips in the form of the Jesus Taxi. The servant ministry brings together those in need with volunteers who are “taxied” to neighborhoods to pray, offer a helping hand, and love those who need it. To get a tour of the new Jesus Taxi building at 1215 Commercial St., Bellingham, or for more info about this and other Love INC programs, call (360) 671-6201.

SERVE COMMUNITY MEALS: Community meals will be served every Tuesday evening at First Baptist Church in downtown Bellingham. Those who need a meal will be offered grab-n-go bags of food (a hearty sandwich or wrap, fruit, and bottled water) each week in order to abide by the official health guidelines. If you or your (very small) group are healthy, and would like to help prepare Tuesday afternoons and/or serve those in need between 5 and 5:30 p.m., contact Jim Parker at jameswparker@hotmail.com or (714) 785-5488.

HOUSING NEEDED FOR WOMEN: Engedi Refuge is looking for housing options for clients who have moved through the program and are working to reintegrate into the community. Engedi Refuge is a local ministry providing a restorative residential program for women who have survived sexual exploitation and trafficking. The housing needs vary from apartment rentals to renting a room or basement suite in a safe and loving home environment. If you or someone you know owns rentals and is willing to rent a room, please contact Engedi Refuge at (360) 922-7600 or engedi.refuge@gmail.com.

Act. Love. Walk.

Micah 6:8

By Darlys Recker

Thanks for your support of the Hope in Christ Church GEMS club. GEMS has a plethora of ideas and resources for our girls (grades 1-8), granddaughters, nieces, or neighbors. I'll list my favorites; you can find more at <https://gemsgc.org/> or on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSGirlsClubs>. As a registered club, we have access to webinars and reduced prices on curriculum and club supplies.

THESE ARE THE TOP FIVE RESOURCES I'D LIKE TO SHARE:

- 1. ReFresh:** an online library of resources to support GEMS leaders as they lead and mentor this generation of girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus.
- 2. ReFyne:** a free app for the iPad and also works with iPhone and Android. It was created because...
 - Research shows a girl's self-esteem peaks at age 9, and then takes a nosedive.
 - 7 in 10 girls believe they are not good enough. (Dove Self Esteem Project)
 - Less than 1% of Gen Z has a Biblical worldview. (Barna Research)

"Equipped with God's Truth, ReFyne will strengthen a girl's confidence and help grow her faith and character. Every girl will have fun as she engages with girl-focused topics such as food, fashion, faith, family, and friends, while at the same time discovering relevant 'tween tips,' all with the purpose of helping her stand firm as a tween girl in today's ever-changing world." <https://www.refyne.org/>

"When you download ReFyne, you can turn on your push notification to receive a daily dose of Truth! It's true! Every day, your girl can get a push notification sent directly to her phone with a prompt to read a girl-friendly, Truth-filled devotion." (August 16 GEMS Girls' Club Facebook Post)

Included on the app are:

- Encouraging, Bible-based devotionals.
- Fun quizzes, polls, and girl-friendly activities.
- Easy-to-make, yummy recipes.
- Faith-based advice for tween friend & family relationships.
- Outer & inner beauty tips & tricks

3. Shine Brightly: Activity boxes for 7-12 year-old girls that are filled with hours of independent fun, devotions, DIY crafts, and unexpected gifts. It'll make a big difference in helping your girl shine bright in every area of her life. Each box (Summer/Fall/Winter/Spring) is "filled with fun and engaging activities, girl-friendly surprises, and faith-filled reading to remind her she matters to God and to you." These boxes are found in the GEMS store on their website.

4. Books: I have a small library of books from conference speakers and several books from the 2018 Conference at Redeemer College Ontario, Canada. I would love to loan them to anyone who's interested. Watch for a table with these books displayed and a sign out sheet on Sunday, September 11.

5. Convo and A-Z cards: The Convo cards (Loved, Friend and U & Me) provide discussion prompts or relation building questions such as "What color do you love to wear?" to more thought provoking questions such as "What does the word *love* mean to you?" They could be helpful for those of us with

prayer partners as we engage with them. The A-Z cards (Identity cards, Friended - who God is & Who Jesus is) provide an A-Z list of who we are in Christ or who God is, each with a scripture verse. The A-Z cards are great to put in a “Thinking of You” or Birthday card.

The following list of GEMS’ core values was recently shared on the GEMS Facebook page. (I personally know the staff at the global office and the GEMS board don’t just “talk the talk” they “walk the walk.”)

- We value people. People take priority over projects, always. The people who intersect at any point with this ministry will know they matter to God and to us.
- We value prayer. Prayer is where we start and end all things. In everything we do—as we seek direction and make decisions—we humbly acknowledge we do not journey alone.
- We value excellence. We are committed to honoring God through our work and our service. We give our all and if there is a way we can be more effective, we will improve it.
- We value innovation. We are creative and willing to try new things. We learn from the past but are always moving forward—anticipating problems and creating relevant solutions to meet the needs of those we serve.
- We value celebration. We mark moments together celebrating in full color and joy all God is doing in and through GEMS.
- We value the Sisterhood. We care about the girls we serve, and we care for one another as sisters in Christ. We enfold, love, and remind one another that we are family.
- We value team. We are better together. We cheer each other on, prop each other up, and work together to change the world one girl at a time.

At GEMS, we don't take these values lightly. In fact, we review them at every staff meeting!

In summary, GEMS is an acronym for **G**irls **E**verywhere **M**eeting the **S**avior. Our vision is to see girls around the world actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others—girls equipped, motivated, and passionately engaged in living out their faith. Our mission is to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. To accomplish this mission, we provide resources to help relationships flourish. GEMS was founded on the principles defined in Titus 2, and we help women show girls how to live God-honoring lives. Through club programs and one-on-one mentoring resources, moms, mentors, and ministry leaders can help guide girls into a relationship with Jesus.

GEMS has grown to become an international ministry. In 2022, there were GEMS clubs in 14 countries: New Zealand, Philippines, Australia, Belize, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Spain, South Africa, China, US and Canada, plus 2 countries (Honduras and Germany) are using GEMS curriculum. Clubs are meeting in 37 States and 9 Canadian Provinces. There are over 3,000 leaders impacting over 25,000 girls in more than 600 clubs.

Your support is greatly appreciated. The Baked Potato Dinner provided \$488 for special local club projects and the recent offering provided \$794 to cover expenses for the GEMS Global Office.





First of all, thank you to all who made the effort to come to the potluck at Birch Bay. The weather was beautiful, the food tasty, the conversation stimulating...what more could we ask?!

**The Hospitality Committee is planning the next potluck to be on
Sunday, October 9th at church following Sunday School.
Menu: Soup, Salads, Rolls, Dessert**

Please save these dates for future gatherings:

Sunday, December 4, Christmas Gathering
Saturday, February 11, Birthday/Valentine Celebration
Sunday, April 16, Potluck
Sunday, June 25, Potluck

You might have noticed a sign-up sheet in the back of church, thanks to Ev Kooistra.

Every potluck will have sign-up sheet for the following:

- Table setting up, after dinner washing, putting tables away
- Filling water pitchers with ice/water, putting glasses on tables
- Filling container with napkins, utensils, salt & pepper on tables and putting away after

We encourage young kids/high school students to help in their capacity.

Each month, prior to the potluck, sign-up sheets will be displayed.

We thank you in advance for helping. Many hands make the work load lighter!

WHATCOM COMMUNITY BULLETIN



WHAT'S NEW

NEW LC JOB OPENINGS: Lynden Christian Schools has new employment opportunities for a Second Chance merchandising supervisor, middle school choir teacher, high school counselor, director of development assistant, high school and middle school coaches, bus drivers, para educators, and substitute teachers. For details and application instructions, visit www.lyncs.org, and click on the employment page. If you have questions regarding employment opportunities or about Lynden Christian Schools, e-mail Lindsey Bendixen at lbendixen@lyncs.org.

BOGO DEAL FOR WEEKEND TO REMEMBER: The BOGO (Buy One, Get One) deal for the Family Life Weekend to Remember marriage conference has arrived. Registration is open for the event on Nov. 18-20 at Semiahmoo Resort. For \$175 per couple you can strengthen your relationship at this one-of-a-kind special weekend. Register by Sept. 18 with the group name MandNVanderKooi at FamilyLife to take advantage of this price. Hotel reservations at Semiahmoo Resort are not covered with the conference registration, but you can request the conference rate. For more information and to register, call Marlin or Nellie at (360) 354-4952.

WINTER COAT DRIVE: Good-quality used and new winter clothing for those in need is being collected by the Blaine Community Assistance Program. Coats, gloves, hats, and socks of all sizes are needed, but larger and toddler sizes are in high demand. Your church's donations can be dropped off at the CAP Center (the former Freedom Community Church), 508 G St., Blaine, on Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you need to make other arrangements or if you'd like to help sort, organize, and distribute items on Oct. 10, 12, 14, or 15, please contact Ameer Nelson at (360) 319-0269 or Ameer.nelson@yahoo.com.

HOUSING NEEDED: A regular attendee of Third CRC in Lynden is looking for a room to rent or roommate to share rent with. She recently moved to the area and is looking for something in the Lynden, Everson, or Bellingham area. If you hear or know of anything, please contact the Third Church office at (360) 354-1448.

LOVE INC FUNDRAISER: Whatcom County Love INC (in the name of Christ) will have its annual fundraiser on Oct. 21 at Cornwall Church, 4518 Northwest Drive, Bellingham. To register, visit <https://www.whatcomloveinc.org/fundraiser>. For more information about this ministry to those in need or how to get involved, call (360) 671-6201 or visit www.whatcomloveinc.org.

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 4:30-6 p.m. "Hop Heads" Men's Group	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion 6-9 p.m. Youth Group	5	6 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer 6-8 p.m. Pastor Scott's Small Group	7 11:45 a.m. Elders Meeting	8 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 4:30-6 p.m. "Hop Heads" Men's Group 7 p.m. Council Meeting	9	10 6-9 p.m. Youth Group Movie Night
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School 5 p.m. Jesus Gathering	12 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class	13 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer 6-8 p.m. Pastor Scott's Small Group 7-8:30 p.m. Boer/Hop Small Group	14	15 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 4:30-6 p.m. "Hop Heads" Men's Group	16 October Heartbeat Deadline	17
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School 12 p.m. Vitality Team 6-9 p.m. Youth Group	19 6:00 p.m. G.E.M.S.	20 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer 6-8 p.m. Pastor Scott's Small Group	21 6-9 p.m. Women's Dinner Out	22 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 4:30-6 p.m. "Hop Heads" Men's Group	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School	26 7:00 p.m. Friendship Class	27 12:15 p.m. Zoom Prayer 6-8 p.m. Pastor Scott's Small Group 7-8:30 p.m. Boer/Hop Small Group	28 11 a.m. -12:15 Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Worship Planning Team	29 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 4:30-6 p.m. "Hop Heads" Men's Group	30	

Happy Birthday

3 Lorraine B
6 Chantel O
11 Jan S
11 Barbara Z
16 Abigail C



16 Rochelle S
21 Hannah C
24 Ellie S
25 Jennifer B
30 Jonathan S