



Hope Within

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The Hope Within is published online in its entirety unless the editor is notified otherwise.

Check out the online version for a full-color experience!

www.hoperca.org

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Laura Strunk (Editor), Ed Moore, Jerry Waalkes, Gayle DeYoung & Markie VanPutten



Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet at church again in February, to avoid too much travel in the winter weather. Our usual third Tuesday date falls on February 16th, and since it's so close to Valentine's Day, we're calling it a "Sweetheart Dinner," but you don't have to be a couple to attend!

Pastor Kent has offered to prepare and serve the meal for us. We know that it will be good. There will also be dinner music and an opportunity to "sing-along" to some familiar tunes.

There will be a little time to get better acquainted and maybe share something about ourselves. We are asking for an \$8 donation to cover some of the expenses.

Regardless of the winter weather, we hope to have a heart-warming time of fellowship. Look for the sign up sheet on the Narthex table.

Date: February 16, 2016

Time: Noon

Location: Hope Reformed Church Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$8 per person

Questions? See Lana or Jerry Loedeman



The Hope Reformed Worship Committee

My article this month is intended to invite you into the wonders of the worship committee here at Hope Reformed Church. One such wonder is the many gifted folks making up this team: Nancy Schripsema who is our fearless chairwoman, Pat Gernaat who is our longest standing member, Al Apotheker who is our well-read liturgy guru, Sara Poehlman who is our small in stature but large in spirit choir leader, Marian Veld who is our resident seminary student, Allison Dillon who is our worship song leader and now bulletin maker, Heather Ofringa who is the one who calls us to account for the disabled in our worship, Sue Williams who is our liturgical art visionary, Tom Drenth who is our elder keeping us connected to the consistory and myself who is our worship leader and preacher. We also have a fantastic handful of others who serve on our committee's behalf for a variety of specific matters related to our worship life: Mike Koets (sound and video), Nancy VanDonselaar (greeter coordinator), Ken Schiedel (usher coordinator), Rebecca Bell (piano care overseer), and Mary Nap (wedding coordinator).

Because our God works through his people we need all these folks and many others who contribute the offering of their gifts to our worship life: those who make banners, direct cantatas, bake communion bread, welcome the stranger, design worship slides, read Scripture, ect... I personally give thanks for the careful ministries of this team for blessing our body with a space and time to worship our God every Lord's Day. We truly strive to structure our worship life as a congregation deeply and richly as possible, so that we never lose sight that God is the One is the center of our worship, the only One worthy of our praise.

The whole reason we worship is because God, the Eternal Mystery, has revealed himself to us and our response is worship. That is why our worship needs to be structured as richly and deeply as possible. We strive as a team to assure our worship contains nothing but the truth: Music, songs, Scripture lessons, sermons, liturgical words, liturgical art and ambience are all means by which God invites, reveals and forms us. Our imperfect worship can never give us the full truth, but we pray our worship never gives us untruth or less than the truth. We cannot grasp all that there is to learn about God, but every time the community gathers at 910 Jenks on the Lord's Day we pray we have the opportunity to add to our total score of the truth.

Our committee would love to hear from you if there is anything we can attend to in our worship life here at HRC.

Grace & Peace
PK



**WORSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Stories of our Fold By Al Apotheker

“HUNTING” FOR THAT ELUSIVE “TURKEY”

Tom picks up his ball, approaches the lane and gracefully puts the ball down the lane and, man oh man it's a bed post. That in bowling lingo is a 7-10 split. Getting both to topple in his next throw is a great challenge. Every sport has its own lingo or nomenclature. Baseball has many. Here are a few. “Around the horn”, “caught in a pickle”, “chin music”, a “moonshot”, “rhubarb” and finally “a bandbox”. As to the game of bowling getting, 168, Jerry is at 122, Tom is at 182 and Al is at 142. We bowl three games and if you do well the team can get the maximum of 4 points. Larry and Tom our “professionals” have played 45 games. Tom has a total of 8201 pins, Larry has a total of 7195 pins. We play at the Pinz on Stadium Drive on Monday evenings at 7 PM. If you are interested in playing in the future contact one of the team members. Being on the straight and narrow is especially helpful in this game. If you are flustered about the terminology used in baseball see the person with the initials PK.



FAST AND FURIOUS

Many of our youth are engaged in some kind of sports activity. I had the privilege, along with Jerry and Lana, of watching a great game of hockey. Our own “Wayne Gretzky,” Christopher Strunk, plays for Kalamazoo United, a team made up of players from Hackett, Central and Loy Norrix. The game, played in three 15 minute periods, was quite exciting. KU fell behind 4-0 but came back to beat Portage Northern 7-6. If you like to see non-stop action, watch a hockey game. Christopher is one of just a small number of freshman playing in this league. Keep up the good work, Christopher!



A special award was given to one of our members. It was given by television station WGVU. The person getting this award was... RADLAAKRUNUI (Unscramble the letters- first and last name) CONGRATULATIONS!

Congregational Care: Meals for those in need



Congregational Care wishes to extend a BIG thank you to Lorraine Witteveen for serving as our meal coordinator and helping to organize meals to families within the congregation who had recent hospitalizations, new babies, or other situations that would warrant a homemade meal. Lorraine needed to step down from serving in this capacity, but God has faithfully supplied a replacement for her, Judy Phillips. So a BIG thank you to Judy as well for saying 'yes' to meet this need.

If you are willing to prepare and deliver a meal on occasion, please let Judy know she can call on you when a need arises. The more people who are willing to help in this ministry the better. The meal can be as simple as a pot of soup or a roasted chicken from the local grocery. The idea is to offer a family a meal that they do not have to worry about preparing. Judy can be reached at 269-343-4036.

What? Lent? Ready or not, here it comes!

To be entirely honest with you I am not yet ready for the Lenten Season. I started some planning this past week, but since we are still in mid-January I'm just not yet ready to roll out how God is calling us to live into the rich liturgical season in our worship life. But ready or not, I've got to get things rolling in this article because Ash Wednesday comes early this year (February 10th). By the time Spring Break hits, Easter Sunday will be in our rearview mirror. This coming week is the week I really plan on getting plans on paper, so for now I simply want to invite you before Lent begins in a couple weeks to begin discerning how God is calling you to observe this holy season as we journey to the cross of Christ and the empty tomb.

- Make worship gatherings a priority in your life during Lent. The full meaning and wonder of Easter is much more profound if we spend time considering Christ's journey to the cross. This includes:
 - The Ash Wednesday Gathering (Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.- following mid-week meal at HRC)
 - Sunday Morning Worship
 - Maundy Thursday Worship (details to come)
 - Good Friday Worship (March 25th at noon at HRC)
 - Sunrise Vigil (March 27th at 7:20 a.m. at Mount Everest Cemetery on Drake Rd.)
 - Easter Day Worship
- Go deeper in discipleship by giving something up to consider that all we have comes from God and/ or by adding more prayer, giving, service, scripture meditation, etc...
- Utilize the RCA Lenten Devotions that follow Jesus through Luke's gospel. The devotions are provided by Words of Hope. You will receive a devotion each day in your email inbox. Visit www.rca.org/lentdevotions to subscribe. You can also go through a series of video devotions called, "Abundance in the Wilderness," which reflects spiritual struggle and progress. These will be delivered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout Lent and each day of Holy Week. Sign up at www.rca.org/lentvideos.
- In the end, do something different to make following Jesus a priority. Give God something to work with and he do what he does in us by the Spirit, make us new creations in Christ.

Grace and peace,
PK

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We're on the web!

www.hoperca.org



Hope Church Committees & Leadership

Church Life

Members: *Allison Dillon, Judy Larsen, Ken Larsen, Paul Witteveen, Karen Schaap

Mission: minister especially to the social and recreational needs in the life of the congregation, including planning & facilitating fellowship activities.

Congregational Care

Members: *Gayle DeYoung, Sue Johnston, Linda Joy, Kathy Rozek, Gretchen Rustenholtz, Ron Stolk, Markie VanPutten, Rick Wielopolski

Mission: minister especially to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs in the life of the congregation, including small groups, prayer chain, and a care network for congregant members.

Education

Members: Shauna Collison, Julie Dintaman, *Karla Durian, Betsy Frens, Ed Moore, Sue VanderMeer, Don VanLandegent Jr.

Mission: implement ways and means for congregants to become firmly grounded in the Word of God through Scripture study, including Sunday school, Family Night, and other educational programs.

Executive

Members: specifically comprised solely of Sr. Pastor and consistory VP, Clerk, Chair of deacons, and Treasurer

Mission: carry on the duties of consistory including giving direction to all paid staff and serve as a sounding board for the pastor

Mission

Members: Denny Collison, Mike Koets, Lana Loedeman, *Jeff Offringa, Karen Schaap, Steve Thomas

Mission: initiate and promote all activities pertaining to missions including contacting missionaries and mission causes that receive our support.

Outreach

Members: John Beeman, Joel Bell, Elaine Breuer, Laura Cousineau, *Scott Poehlman, Shayne Stolk

Mission: promote and prepare the congregation to an effective ministry of evangelism, including visitor follow-up and assimilation, public relations and promotion of disciple-making ministries to the local neighborhood and community.

Property

Members: Matt Bronsink, *Kathy Doornbos, Don VanDonselaar

Mission: general oversight of building and grounds, maintenance and equipment including supervising the church calendar for use of church property.

Worship

Members: Al Apotheker, Doug Charles, Tom Drenth, Kent Frens, Pat Gernaat, Heather Offringa, Sara Poehlman, *Nancy Schripsema, Allison Dillon, Marian Veld, Sue Williams

Mission: plan and implement all musical activities for service, ensure flowers or arrangements are in sanctuary, recruit and train ushers and greeters and ensure sound equipment is operational, including taping of services.

*indicates the committee Chair

Consistory 2016

Elders & their congregational group

John Beeman	N-S
Tom Drenth	A-F
Linda Joy	T-Z
Ed Moore, (VP)	T-Z
Kathy Rozek	G-M
Steve Thomas	N-S
Mari Wielopolski, (Clerk)	G-M
Paul Witteveen	A-F

Deacons

Joel Bell
Matt Bronsink
Kathy Doornbos
Larry Gillam, (Chair)
Jeff Offringa
Karen Schaap
Don VanderMeer, (Treasurer)
Don VanLandegent Jr.

This month, the Hope Church Committees & Leadership page, normally printed on the back of the newsletter, is included as an insert for your easy reference and possible fridge art.