

HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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JANUARY, 2012

77 W. 11th Street, Holland MI 49423
(616)392-7947

Website: www.hopechurchrca.org
Blog: www.lifeofhopechurch.wordpress.com

Hope Church celebrates 150 years in 2012

A Living Hope ~ I Peter 1:3

Look for further information in this newsletter and in a special mailing this month

SEASON OF RECONCILIATION 2012

JANUARY 15 – FEBRUARY 5

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” *2 Corinthians 5.17-18*

During this Season of Epiphany we are having our 2nd annual *Season of Reconciliation*. We began this practice last year, and finding it to have been a meaningful emphasis, we are weaving this season into the regular flow of our congregational life. Here is what the Season of Reconciliation offers for us this year:

WORSHIP

- January 15 - an observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Witness to Reconciliation: members of the Hope Church community share their experience of reconciliation in their lives and vocations – Cindy Terlouw; David VanHeest & Doug Abell; Bruce Tenhaken; Tom Mullens
- January 29 will incorporate music from the Native American tradition

EDUCATION

- Small Group Book Discussion: *Religion Gone Astray ~ What We Found at the Heart of Interfaith*. This book explores interfaith division and reconciliation through the perspectives of a Pastor, Rabbi, and Imam. Small groups will meet on Wednesday evenings Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8 and/or Thursday afternoons Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9. Please sign up in the Gathering Area.
- Movie Night: February 5, 6:00-8:00pm ~ *PAPERS* – a new nationally-distributed documentary on the stories of youth dealing with the complexities of immigration policies. For more info go to <http://papersthemovie.com/>

DISCERNMENT

Becoming a "Room for All" Congregation That Is Welcoming and Affirming ~ A Process for Discernment:

- In November 2011, Consistory approved a process for considering approval of the Room for All Statement
- Congregational conversation will be held during the Season of Reconciliation
 - January 15: review the history of this issue at Hope Church and unpack the language of LGBT
 - January 29: small group discussion on exploring the implications of this statement for Hope Church's ministry and for our relationship with the RCA; the congregation will hold an advisory vote, recommending what action the Consistory should take on the Room for All statement.
- In February, Consistory will consider congregational feedback and vote on the Room for All statement. If approved, Hope Church would be listed on the Room for All website as a welcoming and affirming church.

Please see the insert in this Hope Church News for more information from Room for All

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 12:15 P.M.

Soup lunch will be provided by the Consistory ~
please bring bread or a salad to share.

Transportation will be provided for residents of the Warm Friend and Freedom Village at 2 p.m. (as well as the usual bus run at 12:15 p.m.)

Agenda:

- 2012 Budget approval
- Room for All process discussion
- RCA Conversations: the Reformed Church in America is seeking input from congregations as a new 10-year goal for the denomination. Consider how you have seen God at work through the ministry of Hope Church, and the input we could give on faithful directions for the Reformed Church to follow God’s leading in the coming years

Please plan to attend!

At the Congregational Meeting on December 11, the following people were elected to the offices of elder and deacon for the term 2012-2014: Kathy Brownson, Jane Dickie, Curtis Gruenler, and Mark Sneller have been elected to serve as elders; Tom Arendshorst, Judy Bultman, Duane Kooyers, and Joyce Teusink have been elected to serve as deacons. They will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 8, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

We extend our gratitude to those elders and deacons who have completed their terms: David DeBlock, Char Laman, Marilee Nieuwsma, and Jim Piers as elders; Dave Dirkse, Jan Fike, Clare Heyboer, and Jackie Knoll as deacons.

JANUARY 8 - IT'S AN EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Family Church School ~ Meeting in Room 204 at 9:40 a.m.

Families will come together and share a time of preparation and celebration on this Epiphany Sunday. What would we give Jesus? What do the gifts he received tell us about what Jesus meant to the magi? The families will hear stories, decorate the Epiphany cakes, decorate crowns and learn more about the special gifts that Jesus received.

During the 11:00 a.m. worship service, children in Preschool through 5th grade will meet together in the Commons for a retelling of the Epiphany story in costume and to continue the celebration. The congregation will join them after the service to share some epiphany cake.



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.**

TAIZÉ SERVICES OF PRAYER AND COMMUNION

will resume on January 11

All are invited to participate in this time of song, scripture, silence, and sacrament in the sanctuary on **Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.**

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME AT **EARLY WORSHIP** 8:30 A.M. IN THE COMMONS

- **INFORMAL & INTERACTIVE WORSHIP**
- **COMMUNION CELEBRATED WEEKLY**
 - **KID FRIENDLY!**

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM ~ SUNDAYS AT 9:40 A.M.

January 8-29.....*The Psalms*.....In Commons I

This four-week class will meet the Sundays of January 8, 15, 22, and 29, and use the resource from the Interpretation Series Bible studies on the Psalms. In addition, the class material will include some exposure to the ways Psalms are used, especially in liturgy and worship, but also in private prayer and song (from YouTube to more classical renditions). The class aims to have a practical view, with a focus on some particular Psalms for learning and expanding one's faith. Class members are urged to begin reading the assigned chapters prior to the first session (and this information will be provided). Class leaders are Cindi Veldheer DeYoung and Jane Schuyler.

February 5-26.....*Out of the Darkness: Living With Chemical Dependence*..... In Commons I

Grand Haven Outpatient Clinical Director Tom Mullens explores the impact of chemical use, abuse and dependence on victims and their families. The four-week series examines the brain chemistry of addiction as well as the social and psychological factors and conscious and unconscious dimensions of behavioral changes due to chemical dependence. Information about support systems and interventions will be shared with participants. Sponsored by the Health Ministry.

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP FILES:

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, January 29. Pizza Sunday hosts are needed for 2012; please sign up on the Fellowship bulletin board in the Gathering Area. We are also in need of salad suppliers. Also if you would like to donate a six pack of soda, please leave it in the church kitchen.



KIDS HOPE USA

January is National Mentoring Month! Along with others in a variety of programs across the nation, we wish to recognize the contributions of our mentors this January, but we also wish to recognize the prayer partners and substitute mentors without whose support, our mentors would not be able to make the impact they make in the lives of our Vanderbilt students.

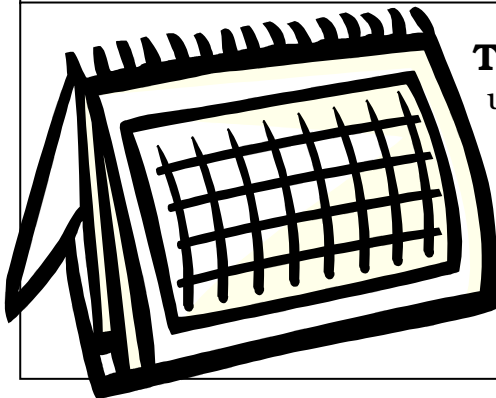
Currently we have twelve committed mentors who are supported by twelve faithful prayer partners who are praying just for them and the child they mentor. We also have ten substitute mentors who help us provide continuity by meeting with Kids Hope children when their personal mentor is unable to be there. Rounding out our program is a group of ten dedicated unassigned prayer partners who pray for the Hope Church Kids Hope program as a whole.

Recently, we have also recruited two previously unassigned prayer partners who are now praying by name for two children on our waiting list. We are grateful for their willingness to take on this new challenge and for their interest in supporting these children during this period when we are unable to provide them with a mentor.

Our Kids Hope mentors are Dave Boelkins, Judi and Peter Boogaart, Don Buteyn, Anne and Bert Duinkerken, Jean Cook, Helen DeWeerd, Nancy Rock, Bruce tenHaken, Phil VanEyl and Ruth VanKampen. Substitute mentors are Margaret Boelkins, Linda Cook, Barbara Joldersma, Marilee Nieuwsma, Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Jane Schuyler, Nancy VandeWater, Judy and Marlin VanderWilt and Gordon Wiersma.

Prayer Partners who are assigned to a specific mentor and child are Randy Braaksma, Suzanne Buteyn, Marilyn Cook, Jan Fike, Carole Hintz, Norma Killilea, Char Laman, Judy Mastenbrook, Dorothy Sherburne, Jan Smith, Eloise VanHeest, and Gordon Wiersma. Prayer Partners who are assigned to a child who is waiting for a mentor are Ann Anderson and Jane Schuyler. Prayer Partners who pray for this ministry as a whole are Joanne Brooks, Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof, Stephanie Krom, Earl Laman, Kari Miller-Fenwood, Karen Mulder, Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Stan Rock, Jill Russell and Judy Werkman.

We are grateful for each member of our Kids Hope team and very glad to be part of an organization which provides one out of every five mentors in the State of Michigan. We are also eager to serve the six children who remain on our waiting list. If you have reached a point in your life where mentoring now seems like a possibility, please contact Anne Duinkerken (392-7947) or Barb Joldersma (399-7319). We will happily provide you with the tools and training you need to join this ministry to at-risk children.



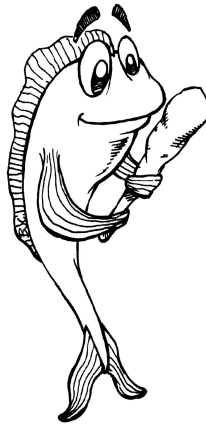
THE CHURCH CALENDAR is continually being updated. If you are planning a meeting or event, have changed your meeting time, have canceled a scheduled meeting, etc., please call the church office and let us know. This will assure you that your meeting will be held as scheduled and publicized as planned, and that the room will be adequately cooled or heated.

NURSERY NEWS – AN INVITATION

Thank you to the youth and adults who have staffed the nursery this fall. Once again we are asking for adults to sign up to help in the nursery. Adults of all ages can share their gifts with these young ones. Sign up with a friend if you would feel more comfortable. There are always youth to help with the lifting and chasing. The children love readers, laps to sit in and someone to give them special attention. Please contact Kim Rosenau or Jocelyn Van Heest if you have any questions on how you could be of service or to sign up for a Sunday morning during worship. Thanks for considering being a part of this nurturing ministry. What a great way to get to know and enjoy the youth of Hope Church and it's youngest members.

HIGH HOPES

We had an amazing progressive dinner on Sunday, December 18! Jim and Ann McKnight, Brad and Christine MacLean, and Peg DeHaan opened their homes to 20 very happy, loud, and hungry teen-agers. We enjoyed appetizers at the McKnight's, homemade pasta for dinner at the MacLean's, and a wonderful cherries-in-the snow and sparkling juice at Peg's! Each year we out-do ourselves in finding new and interesting white-elephant presents. We are looking forward to our annual Cran Hill retreat in January.



FISH CLUB

We met on Sunday evening, December 4 and made enough cookies to fill 20 bags for our homebound members. Then on December 10 we had our Christmas celebration. We went to Crazy Bounce, which lived up to its' name for being crazy! In January we are looking forward to our annual Cran Hill retreat.

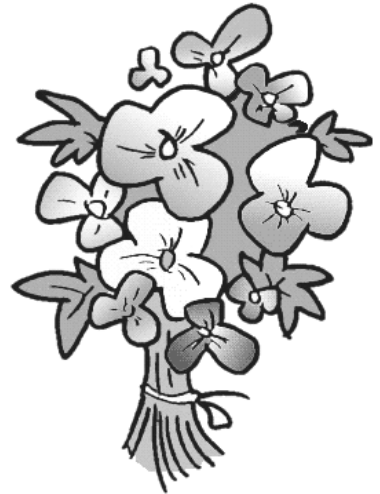
HOPE CHURCH READERS

will be discussing one of 2011's major non-fiction books, Eric Larsen's *Garden of Beasts*. The meeting will be held in Commons II on Wednesday, January 18, at 1:00 p.m. with Charlotte Leaske leading the discussion.

Visitors and new members are welcome.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Do you enjoy the flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday? We are blessed to be able to express the beauty of God's nature in our worship services. If you would like to be a part of the flower ministry, please sign up in the Gathering Area on the flower calendar on the main bulletin board, or call Joyce Teusink at 335-2324. Celebrate a special occasion in your family, or give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. A short note will be included in the bulletin for your celebration or memorial. We have florists who assist us for a fee, or you can deliver your own arrangement. Call Joyce Teusink with questions or for more details. Thank you for making our worship service even more vibrant!



HEALTH MINISTRY

“LET’S DANCE!”

And that comes from someone who when young felt very righteous about NOT DANCING! Well, dancing then was looked at narrowly and suspiciously, and judged as too frisky or morally risky. (That King David danced into Jerusalem notwithstanding.)

The meaning of “dancing” was greatly expanded when we took a 25th anniversary raft trip through the deep chasms and wild waters of the Missouri River in Utah.

When we were bouncing and careening through the roughest rapids, the boatsmen in our two rafts would sing out:

“I don’t know but I’ve been told,
You keep on dancing you never grow old!”

We’ve had occasion to echo those words and melody often in life, when the going got a little rough, when the rhythms of life pulled on us, and when the music of being alive reached into us.

Unfortunately, many of us disregard the rhythms and music drawing on us until the going gets a little rough healthwise. Weight, breath, strength, and poor mobility begin to warn us. Or otherwise we find ourselves dancing to the fast, heavy drummer of too-much-ness and hectic living. This seems to get recognition around the first of the year! And after the indulgent holidays. Then come those groans and resolutions.

The “Fitness” centers cash in on this phenomenon. January and February are crowded months there - and the profit months! Why profit? “Because the majority of those who join don’t continue,” an owner said.

Why do they quit? Research has revealed, “because they have short-term goals.” Like: lose weight, feel better, relieve guilt, doing “shoulds”.

What’s needed? Recognition that the well-being of body and spirit calls for a “dance of life”; a vibrant daily and lifelong honoring of our basic needs; a keen listening to the rhythms and music of healthfulness that call us; a spiritual alertness to how our bodies are the wondrous, intricate, balanced, one-in-a-lifetime creation and home of our very being.

Many people know that “dancing” through life carries its own rewards - energy, agility, alertness, peacefulness, endurance, satisfactions, and freedom to be in the larger Creation. We have gained so much understanding of what makes for healthiness - if we will tune into it.

We have unlimited resources from the wonders of walking, hiking, running, biking, et al, outdoors; to fitness centers and in-home helps; to rehab and revitalization opportunities; to enjoyable games.

Oh, yes, and there’s dancing, in classes, groups, couples and in the spirit of the moment. We’re free to dance now! Prof. Maxine De Bruyn even offers a special group for those who wish to be more flexible, on Tuesday mornings at 10:45 at Hope Church.

Consequences can drive us to “do something,” but a positive, active “dance of life” can carry us much further and more richly.

“Let’s Dance!”

Earl A. Laman



Health Ministry

Find Your Place at Hope Church!

I wanted to explore with the congregation what direction your gifts might lead you. Following are brief descriptions of the ministry opportunities available, as well as the chair person of those ministries. **All** of the ministries welcome new members and ideas. Feel free to talk to any of the ministry chairs if you would like to know more or are interested in being a part of one of the ministries of Hope Church. The meetings are monthly and usually about one hour in duration.

Christian Education

The goal of this ministry is to help others increase in spiritual growth, deepen their faith, and develop personal commitment. The ministry seeks to celebrate diversity, to become more faithful to the vision of Jesus, and to assist the church in becoming a mission center in our community and world. Ministry chair is Lise Steeby.

Community and World Ministry

The purpose of this ministry is to support and encourage Christian action and mission: to unleash the gifts that Hope Church can give to others in the community and the world. Ministry chair is Lois Maassen.

Fellowship Ministry

The goal of this ministry is to provide opportunities for fellowship among the members and friends of Hope Church through an assortment of intergenerational events. Dune hikes, ball games, winter parties, game nights, tennis evenings, ice cream socials, as well as the traditional Lenten and Advent series are planned to provide fellowship. Ministry chairs are Lisa Accardo and Marilee Nieuwsma.

Outreach and Hospitality Ministry

This ministry seeks to reach out to visitors and non-members in the Holland community and area to encourage their participation and membership in Hope Church. They work to foster a sense of warmth, openness, and hospitality that will enrich the life of the church and promote interaction between members and visitors. The ministry plans and coordinates the New Member Class, Sunday greeters, and the monthly newsletter. Ministry chair is Jim Piers.

Congregational Care Ministry

This group of trained lay people works with the pastoral staff to minister to both the needs and joys of the Hope Church family. The goal is to make this a loving, caring community of faith in all the events of life. Ministry chair is Dave Boelkins.

Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry

This ministry focuses on the creation and maintenance of a worshipful environment for the family of Hope Church. This is done visually, through music, and through the celebration of the sacraments. The ministry acts a sounding board through which the congregation can convey their desires and wishes concerning the joy or troubles they experience upon coming together in worship. This ministry also works to fulfill its mission in the life of the church by developing it as a praying community. This is done through a variety of activities such as adult education classes, visual displays, the provision of literature to guide daily prayer and devotions, and retreat opportunities. Ministry chair is Cindi Veldheer DeYoung.

Building and Grounds Ministry

This ministry is responsible for the care and maintenance of the physical facilities of Hope Church. They keep the physical plant functioning smoothly so that all the other ministries can function with the greatest efficiency, taking seriously the commitment to be good stewards of our church resources. Ministry chair is Duane Kooyers.

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

This ministry seeks to cultivate the outlook and action of true stewards in the congregation through the generous sharing of time, talent, and possessions for service to others. The group plans and supervises the total budget of the church, and stimulates giving by members so that the church can reach projected goals. Ministry chairs are John Fleming and Brad MacLean.

There are other groups at Hope Church that you can be a part of and share your gifts. There is the Ideas Ministry, Health Ministry, Knitting Ministry, Early Worship Task Force, and choirs for youth and adults. There is the Parents and Children Together play group and the Caring for Creation Ministry. The youth groups always welcome more adult sponsors and members. Women's Circle groups welcome new members, as do the Hope Church Readers, Men's Breakfast, Brim Bunch, and the Exercise group.

Remember that you are gifted by the Holy Spirit and you are one of God's gifts to the world. What are some of the possibilities you might explore?

Laurie Beyer Braaksma, Church Administrator

AT HOME WITH THE WORD
Daily Bible Readings from the
Revised Common Lectionary

January 2 - 8

Monday	Genesis 1:1-5
Tuesday	Psalm 29
Wednesday	Acts 19:1-7
Thursday	Mark 1:4-8
Friday	Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12
Saturday	Mark 1:9-11
Sunday	1st Sunday after Epiphany

January 9 - 15

Monday	I Samuel 3:1-10
Tuesday	I Samuel 3:11-20
Wednesday	Psalm 139:1-6
Thursday	Psalm 139:13-18
Friday	I Corinthians 6:12-20
Saturday	John 1:43-51
Sunday	2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 16 - 22

Monday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Tuesday	Psalm 62:5-8
Wednesday	Psalm 62:9-12
Thursday	I Corinthians 7:29-31
Friday	Mark 1:14-15
Saturday	Mark 1:16-20
Sunday	3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 23 - 29

Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Tuesday	Psalm 111:1-6
Wednesday	Psalm 111:7-10
Thursday	I Corinthians 8:1-6
Friday	I Corinthians 8:7-13
Saturday	Mark 1:21-28
Sunday	4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 30 - February 5

Monday	Isaiah 40:21-31
Tuesday	Psalm 147:1-6
Wednesday	Psalm 147:7-11, 20
Thursday	I Corinthians 9:16-23
Friday	Mark 1:29-34
Saturday	Mark 1:35-39
Sunday	5th Sunday after Epiphany

COFFEE TIME!

This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. Two or three staff members, Congregational Care Ministry representative(s), and any other congregation members who would like to attend are all welcome. The next *Coffee Time* will be at Warm Friend on January 10 at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour!



CIRCLES

Circle 1

Wednesday, January 4, 9:30 a.m. in Commons II

Circle 4

Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

AND FINALLY...

150 years in 2012! We'll be celebrating that throughout the year here at Hope Church, giving thanks to God for a century-and-a-half of blessing and ministry as a faith community grounded in the *living hope* of Jesus Christ. You'll be receiving a special mailing this month that has a schedule of events planned for our sesquicentennial year, and I expect there will be some additional things that pop up along the way.

As I was thinking about this *and finally* column to start off the 150th year, I wondered about notes from pastors in the past. And so of course I turned to Judy Parr, who is nearing completion on a comprehensive history of Hope Church that will be published this summer. Judy passed on to me something from the beginning of the 100th anniversary year for Hope Church in 1962. It's a transcript of a message that Rev. Bill Hillegonds gave as a report to the congregation in January of 1962, and I think it's an interesting slice of church life to share with you. It's a reflection that can certainly speak to us today, and perhaps an opportunity for you to consider what you would say today about the past, present, and future of Hope Church. And during this 150th year, you'll have the opportunity to express that as well!

So, for this *and finally* I defer to my esteemed colleague Reverend William C. Hillegonds, who served Hope Church as Pastor from 1960-1965 and completed his faithful life here to be with the Lord on December 23, 2007.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Hillegonds".

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"This meditation speaks to a question...this one: What makes a church vital? What makes a Christian congregation vigorous? Is it the people who make it up...their intellectual capacity, their wealth, their positions in the social structure of the community? If this is all that is required to make a church vital, Hope Church would be one of the most alert, vigorous churches in the Reformed Church in America.

"Is it the minister? He can help and he can hinder. He can be a door and he can be a roadblock. But in no way does the vitality of a church either begin or end with him. He must not be looked upon either as the chief cornerstone of a congregation's success nor

*(continued from page 9)*

must he be looked upon as the scapegoat when success, whatever this is in the church, flees and dull churchianity is the order of the day rather than dynamic Christianity.

“Well, if it isn’t intelligent, affluent people who are only intelligent and affluent; and if it isn’t the minister who makes or fails to make a church vital, what does?”

“I am convinced it is this. The vital church...the church that makes a difference in the lives of the people who make it up and in the community in which she stands as some kind of vicar of Christ on earth is a church which has a sense of conviction and a sense of vocation.

“The vital church is made up of people who can say in their own words what Saint Paul and Saint Peter and Saint John said in these words. ‘I know whom I have believed. It is no cunningly devised fable we are giving you. It is of what we have heard, of what we have seen with our eyes, of what we have watched reverently and touched with our hands – it is about the word who is the life that we are now writing.’

“Perhaps one reason our church seems to flounder at some points is that not enough of us can say, ‘O God, thou art my God’ – and know why we say it. All of us, not only some of us, need to discover anew a star to steer by, a cause, a creed, a passionate attachment not to things but to him who existed before things were and who shall live after earth’s last things shall have disappeared.

“*And to be vital* we need a greater sense of vocation. At the very heart of our church there should be a knowledge of the eternal gospel and the commission to impart it to our fellow men.

“Have we forgotten, some of us, that the Christian is not one who has chosen Christ, but one who has been chosen by Christ. We are people who have responded to a call! We are a chosen race, a dedicated nation, and a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the triumphs of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

“Dr. William Barclay says this about us. ‘The Christian is chosen for three things. He is chosen for PRIVILEGE. In Jesus Christ there is offered to him a new and intimate relationship of fellowship with God. God has become his friend and he has become God’s friend. He is chosen for OBEDIENCE. That whole relationship depends on obedience. The privilege brings with it responsibility. The Christian is chosen in order that he may become the obedient child of God. He is not chosen to do as he likes; he is chosen to do as God likes. His privilege is not to obey his own will, but to obey the will of God. He is chosen for SERVICE. His honor is that he is the servant of God. His privilege is that he will be used for the purposes of God. But he can only be so used when he brings to God the obedience which God desires. Chosen for privilege, chosen for obedience, chosen for service – the three great facts go hand in hand.’

“In this the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Hope Church in Holland, Michigan, we should become increasingly aware that our reason for existence is not that we are so terribly different from other Christian congregations in our Community....Let us not be known only for our difference but for our likeness to the New Testament church which saw herself as an instrument of God in his move to reshape the world according to the way and wishes of his Son.

“As God hovers over a world not without its crises, let Hope Church be one of his instruments in showing all who pass our way the whence of our coming, the why of our being here and the eternal destiny of man’s eternal soul. This is to honor the past. This is to make meaningful the present. This is to help the world realize another and another dawn.”