



The Visitor



December 2016

Issue #12-11

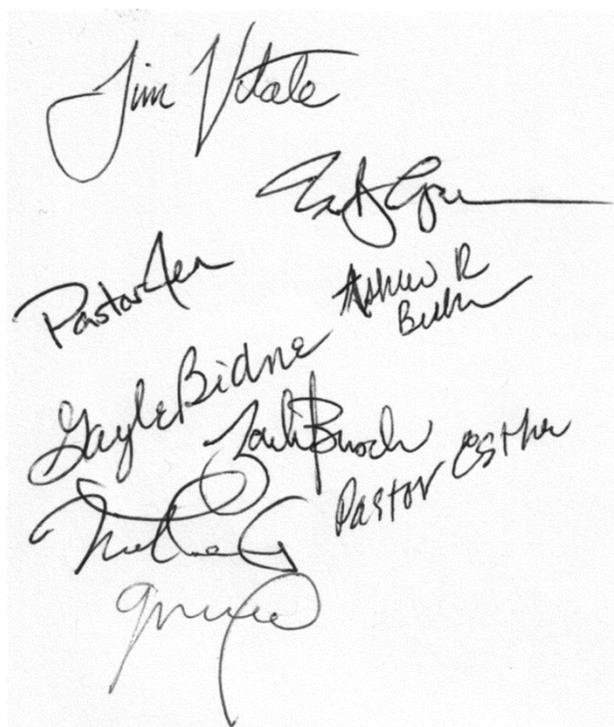
Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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www.ulch.org

*University Lutheran Church of Hope
is a welcoming, Christian community of faith
centered in God's grace and
called to demonstrate God's love for the world.*

Advent Blessings and Christmas Peace!

In the midst of our lives, in the midst of a world broken with injustice, Jesus is born again.
Let every heart prepare him room.
We hold you in our prayers and give thanks for the ministry we share together.
Our love and deepest gratitude this season and always,



ULCH Staff (at the Reformation exhibit at Mia): Nick Tangen, Pastor Esther Dant, Monty Lysne, Pastor Jen Nagel, Zach Busch, Ashlei Buhrow, Gayle Bidne, and Jim Vitale

Treasurer's Report for October 2016

	Actuals Oct 2016	Budget Oct 2016	Oct 2016 Var	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Var
General Giving	30,997	34,575	(3,578)	351,856	364,200	(12,344)
Rental Income	7,503	8,875	(1,372)	72,124	81,585	(9,460)
Total Income	38,500	43,450	(4,950)	423,981	445,785	(21,804)
Total Expenses	39,934	56,965	(17,031)	406,423	453,041	(46,617)
Net Income	(1,434)	(13,515)	12,081	17,557	(7,256)	24,813



Total income as of October 31, 2016 is unfavorable to budget by \$22K. We continue to report an unfavorable variance to budget for 2016. That being said, we have been fortunate that this year our expenses have been less than budget, thus making our net income favorable to budget by \$25K.

As I voiced at the latest Vision & Governance meeting, reducing expenses to make budget is not the preferable way to meet our church's visions and goals. It needs to be a combination of thoughtful spending and contributions from our members. Simply Giving is a great way to evenly distribute your annual giving throughout the year without having to worry about sending your check or even finding your checkbook. A link to Simply Giving is found on our home page at www.ulch.org. And don't forget, you can now give via text. If you'd like information on either Simply Giving or texting your donation, please let me know. Total expenses in October were under budget by \$17k and YTD favorable to budget by \$46.6K. This stems from additional gifts received from the congregation for specific areas of ministry (Thank you congregation!) and from our leaders' mindfulness of our mission while using our resources wisely (Thank you leaders!) The activity in the Building Fund for October was a slight loss for the month (a \$259 shortfall between revenue and expenses). The cash balance in our Building Fund is \$44K. We are blessed to have a wonderful building to call home. If you have any questions please contact me at treasurer@ulch.org.

Ruth Hedman
Treasurer

Prayer Walking and Porous Walls

I have been taking some time each week to walk different parts of the neighborhood around University Lutheran Church of Hope and to pray. These prayer walks have been incredibly meaningful for me as I get to know the neighborhood and communities that this congregation serves.

Part of Hope's vision for the future includes the concept of "porous walls," and I think that this is important work for the Church in a world that so often divides. One of the ways we can all start to create this sense of porousness is by prayer-walking the neighborhoods around University Lutheran Church of Hope. Prayer-walking is a process of listening closely while walking slowly. The model of prayer-walking that the Neighborhood & Campus Team will employ asks us to look specifically for five things: community, meaning, worship, healing, and marginalization. Where in the neighborhood do we encounter spaces of community, or symbols of healing and worship? Where are the places that seem to have been forgotten? As we identify these places, spaces, and symbols, we can begin to pray for and with them so that we can foster the kind of intimate connection required of these porous walls. One of the other things I've begun to do is to take pictures on my phone of the places where I pray, so that I can reflect and continue to pray once I've left. It may seem like a small thing, but intentionally and prayerfully walking our community can have a profound impact on the way we think about our place in the neighborhood and the city. So, before the temperatures get too cold, I am challenging everyone to take some time each month to prayerfully walk the neighborhood around our church. I would encourage us also to talk to each other about what we find on these walks. What are we praying for? What new things have we learned? Take a friend, or take a pet, but let's lean in to the idea of porous walls and get to know our neighborhood a little bit better. Peace be with you,

Nicholas Tangen
Community Engagement Coordinator

Tangible Hope

In mid-November, Rev. Barbara Lundblad preached at University Lutheran Church of Hope for our Gratitude and Generosity Sunday. Barbara is a wonderful preacher, one of the best in the ELCA. She spent much of her career as the preaching professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and now lives in Marcy-Holmes. She and her partner Nicole are active at Grace Lutheran. The day Barbara preached was not only the day we dedicated our stewardship pledges for our 2017 ministry, but also the day immediately after the elections.



Barbara recounted how she would tell her students that in their preaching, they needed to find a way to make hope as tangible as despair. “Making hope tangible.” That’s the line that has stuck with me the most strongly. It really preached to me, in these days.

Here at Hope we hosted a vigil on the evening after the election. With seven hours of notice, more than 80 people showed up to pray, to sing, to hear the call of scripture and poetry, to light candles, to squeeze a hand or share a hug. Long-time members of the congregation, students we’d never met before, friends and others whom you invited, all gathered. The emotions were wide-ranging. Like that night, I don’t want to presume in any way that we’re all in the same place, and yet, it’s clear, coming together was a mark of tangible hope. We know in our bones that at times like these we draw comfort from our God and from faithful communities.

The temptations these days are plenty: to hunker down and disconnect, surround ourselves with like-minded voices, dismiss or demonize those who see the world differently, overlook those who are hurting – who don’t fit our categories. A little of the actions can be a healthy response; there are times when tuning out Facebook or avoiding 24/7 news is our best action. There are times this holiday season when we may need strong boundaries about conversations over the Christmas table, or safely engaging with family members.

And yet, we’re also called, as Luke’s gospel that Sunday said, to testify, to be that tangible hope. We’re called to stay engaged with those who think similarly and those with whom we differ. We’re called to cross the lines and seek out the conversations so we can try to understand another’s perspective. For some this will be natural; for others, it may take some effort. We’re called to stand with all our being in the gospel call to justice for the oppressed. We’re hearing more about what it might mean to be a “sanctuary congregation.”

We’re standing with other faith leaders on campus to denounce racism, misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia, and plenty of other “isms,” and to name the values of our tradition and our community. We’re beginning the deep systemic work of racial justice. We’re hearing the cries of our sisters and brothers at Standing Rock.

It’s all about tangible hope, and this Advent and Christmas season is the time for us to get tangible, physical. In the birth of Jesus, God comes into our world again, anew, in a very tangible, incarnate, literally “fleshy” way. I hold you and our world in my prayers, and at once I covet your prayers. May we be a strong, gentle, courageous, tangible hope together.

Pastor Jen

Hope Book Club

On Sunday Dec. 11 at 6:00 p.m. the Hope Book Club will meet at Sonja Peterson’s home, 1501 26th Ave NE in Minneapolis, for a potluck supper and discussion of *The Social Animal*, by David Brooks.



New York Times columnist David Brooks has long explored and explained the way we live. Drawing on current research from numerous disciplines, Brooks takes one composite American couple, Harold and Erica, from infancy to old age, illustrating a fundamental new understanding of human nature along the way: The unconscious mind, it turns out, is not a dark, vestigial place, but a creative one, where most of the brain’s work is done. This is the realm where character is formed and our most important life decisions are made—the natural habitat of *The Social Animal*. www.goodreads.com

Please contact Sonja Peterson with suggestions or questions at 612-789-0397 or peterston@dunnwald.com

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages

Faith Formation Recap and December News

Hello all! 'Tis the season to be joyful, and if we're being honest, quite busy. It feels like November came and went before I could even blink, and we are already deep into the festivities of December. So first, let's start with a quick recap of November. We had a great start with our Intergenerational Event: Back to the Future. We spent the morning singing, dancing, chatting, and growing with one another in our faith. It was great to see so many different generations of the congregation participating and enjoying that time of fellowship with one another. November has been a time for Christmas planning, stories of thankfulness, blessing, and sharing in all that is Advent.

In December, we have a lot to do in a short amount of time. On December 18, we will hold our Christmas program. So the first few weeks of December will be spent preparing, planning, and making that ready for all to see. This year we are privileged to enjoy a program written by Poonam Morgan and Seneca Brooks. They developed the plot, casting, and script! The program begins with the annunciation to Joseph by the Angel as told in Matthew, and transitions into the traditional Christmas story recounted in Luke. It will be a very fun and creative interpretation of a story we all hold so dear to our hearts. These students have done an absolutely wonderful job in taking on such a large task in so little time. If you see them, be sure to show your appreciation for all they have done!

When we return to the regular Faith Formation schedule on January 8. Look for announcements about something we like to call a "First 15!" We will come together every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. to start our time together in song, worship, and conversation. We look forward to all that is to come.

Ashlei Buhrow



Why Faith Acts in the Home

We've been talking about the FAITH5 at Hope for the past few weeks, but I want to take a moment to tell you a bit more about what the "faith" in the FAITH5 stands for. FAITH is an acronym for Faith Acts In The Home. The definition of "act" as a noun is "something someone has done; the action of carrying something out." Our focus is to take action in every household and set an expectation to intentionally carry it out.

When theologian/sociologist Tony Campolo was asked, "What is the healthiest thing a young person could say about his or her family?" he answered, "We always do it this way in our home."

Let's unpack this statement. "We" means together, not off in our own separate places. "Always" means there's a ritual—something that happens on a regular basis. "This way" means an action—not something passive. "Our home" means under our roof—a central place for family identity.

What more could we want than for households to be saying this? *Acts* is, of course, also the name of the book in the Bible that connects the Gospels to the rest of the New Testament. The beginning of Acts moves right from the life of Jesus to the birth of the church, Pentecost.

(Continued on p. 5)

Sunday Forums

(9:30-10:20 a.m. in Heritage Hall, below the Sanctuary)

December 4: Luther, Social Ethics and the Theology of the Cross. Continuing our celebration of Reformation 500, Hans Wiersma, PhD, associate professor of religion at Augsburg College, will engage us in a vibrant conversation about Luther and social ethics. In our current political upheaval, this may inform our approach to moving into the future. Come and join the conversation.



December 11: Abundant Life Together. Abundant Life Together (ALT Year) is a gap year program for young adult Christians ages 18-25 to explore faith, justice, and calling, while living, serving, and learning in intentional community. Join with Associate Site Director Amber Kalina to hear more about what taking an ALT Year has meant for participants, and how ALT is emerging in the Twin Cities. You may know someone who would be interested in this experience or maybe that someone is you. Come to learn more about this pioneering program.

December 18: Yearning for Racial Justice. Members of the Racial Justice Task Force have been meeting for almost a year to reflect on their own journey around race, justice, and privilege. Come to this forum to learn more about what the group has done so far and hear their plans for the future. How can being a Lutheran Christian empower us to make real change in our society around questions of justice and equity?

December 25 and January 1: No Sunday Forums

Why Faith Acts in the Home (continued from page 4)

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.”

Acts 1:8

After the Holy Spirit came upon them, the disciples went from town to town establishing small churches, some referred to as “house churches.” Faith in the home is the goal. What better place to invite the Holy Spirit to come upon us?

Start at Church and Move to Home

It’s one thing for churches to encourage families to be more intentional about faith practices at home. It’s another thing for churches to equip families to do it. The goal is to set the church up as a “testing ground” for families, and examine all five steps on a regular basis at worship, during Sunday School, and at adult education classes. The hope is that, over time, families will become familiar with the practice and have an easier time transitioning from church to home.

From Home Back to Church

When an opportunity is provided for families to share stories about their faith practices in the home, stories abound, lives grow, traditions are built, and relationships are strengthened. The way a congregation functions changes. Setting an expectation to practice these five steps has made a difference in the way families connect and in the way we look at how we “do church.” The body is only as healthy as its cells. Healthy, growing families contribute to a healthy, growing congregation.

Monty Lysne
Congregational Faith Formation Coach

Congregational Life

Dates to Keep in Mind

December 1: Beer and Hymns at Blarney's Pub

December 11: Holiday Potluck/Smorgasbord; Caroling; Hope Book Club

December 21: Hope Diamonds luncheon and program

January 22: Farewell for Pastor Esther; Fellowship Meal

February 12: Annual congregational meeting

Life Events at Hope

We're a community of faith, called to hold one another in prayer. Here are a few of the life events affecting our community. We need your help to know what we can pray for; please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

Births, Marriages, Moves, Retirements, Transitions—God is with us through it all.

Deaths—Marion Flaa, mother of Roger and Nita Anderson; Richard Nielsen, father of Christine Nielsen; Ann Marie Fetterley, mother of Julie and Gary Richie; Mead Cavert, husband of June Cavert; Fritz Friedrich, father of Marge and Peter Ostroushko and Marge's brother Bob.

Significant Illness or Recovery—Those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency and mental health struggles, especially Hannah Kiresuk, Grace Wagner, Barry Brooks, and Chuck Lewis

December Fellowship Meal. Come join us for our annual holiday potluck smorgasbord on Sunday, December 11 after the 10:30 a.m. service. Meatballs, potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Please bring an item to share such as a main dish, vegetables, fruit, salad, or dessert.

Join us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 11, at 12:45 p.m. Following our festive holiday potluck, teams of carolers will head out to visit the homes and care centers of some of our homebound members, and deliver small poinsettias from the Friendly Visitors, as well as Christmas cookies. This is a great way to reconnect with these beloved of our community whom we don't often have a chance to worship with or sing with! Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to participate. If possible, bring a plate of cookies to share. Questions? Speak with Pastor Esther (estherd@ulch.org or 612-331-5988).

Youth Christmas Party. Advent has begun and Christmas is just around the corner! Join us as we continue the tradition of our youth Christmas party! The dates, times, and locations are yet to be decided, so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for more information. We hope you can join us for this fun and festive gathering! Questions? Please contact Jim Vitale at jvitale001@luthersem.edu.

Advent Worship Schedule

Advent is upon us. We meet for Advent midweek worship, praying Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays December 7, December 14, and December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. The service is less than half an hour.

Looking ahead to the celebration of Christmas here at Hope, be advised that our worship schedule will be slightly altered, as Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays this year. Note these dates:

Saturday, December 24: Festival services at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1: *One* service at 10:30 a.m.

Worship will resume at our normal times of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on January 8.

Zach Busch
Minister of Worship and Music

Beer & Hymns

When: December 1st 7:30pm

Where: Basement of Blarney's Pub

Join us on December 1st at 7:30pm in the basement of Blarney's Pub for Beer & Hymns. Musicians from Grace University Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry will lead us in singing all of our favorite hymns. This month, with Christmas fast approaching, we could use all the voices we can get to belt out all the best Christmas songs. See you there! If you have any questions please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Gratitude and Generosity Committee

Gratitude and Generosity Stories

The Gratitude and Generosity three-ring binder is now available for all to read. You will find it on a table in the church lounge. Stories can be any length and are meant to share moments of Gratitude and Generosity that have had an impact on your life and motivated you to give back. Please feel free to add your own story to the binder or send it to: Molly Broin at molly.broin@gmail.com or Ann Beane at spirit.beane@gmail.com

Coins for Children - Children's Play Area.

Now that we have had two successful collections (Sunday November 13 brought in \$85.84!), the first Sunday of each month will usually be your next opportunity to give. Thanks to all for participating. There is a drawing by the Welcome Center of the plans for the courtyard play area. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please send them to Ann Agrimson at ann.agrimson@yahoo.com or Ann Beane at spirit.beane@gmail.com.

Ann Beane
Gratitude and Generosity Committee

Our congregation abounds in members who willingly share their time, talents and money. I am thankful to be part of this generous church family, and I am particularly grateful for Kirsten Mebust, Jan Sanden, and Bill Sanden for the training they provide for our acolytes. On an annual basis they conduct classes to teach the students the acolyte duties as well as their religious significance in the church service.

As a regular altar guild worship assistant, I am so often impressed by the knowledge, reverence, and can-do spirit of the acolytes every Sunday morning. I also really appreciate that, when we sometimes need a "pinch hitter" at the last minute, a substitute acolyte will generously and bravely step in. On August 14, it was Irene Arunkumar who graciously agreed to step in to acolyte with Seneca Brooks, who was performing the tasks for the first time. Thank you, Irene, Seneca, and all the acolytes for your service.

And thank you, Kirsten, Jan and Bill, for giving of your time and expertise to teach the acolytes their liturgical role. I think that being an acolyte is a rather unique experience for our children. In their busy worlds filled with electronic communication, education, gaming, sports, entertainment, etc., it's a rare experience indeed, for them to assist in worship with Holy Communion – a rite that has been practiced for centuries. Your instruction in this tradition makes their service meaningful.

Kathy Kufus
Gratitude and Generosity Committee

A Night of Moonlight Madness

On Nov. 11, members of our youth group and their friends gathered to participate in Moonlight Madness, an all-night party that rolls from Minneapolis to Andover. This event, coordinated by David Wrightsman and Brice Eichlersmith, has been a staple of Twin Cities youth ministry for nearly 30 years and a favorite event of University Lutheran Church of Hope youth for over a decade. Our group of nine youth, chaperoned by Jim Vitale and Ashlei Buhrow, joined with almost 500 other youth from around the Twin Cities and beyond at Augsburg College to kick off the night. We ate pizza, threw footballs, danced, and chatted with new friends. Around midnight we traveled north to the Grand Slam Family Fun Center in Coon Rapids, where we played laser tag, mini-golf, bumper cars, and arcade games. Re-energized with snacks, coffee, and energy drinks, we drove further north to Andover, where a movie theater was open for us at 2:30 a.m., showing five popular movies. At 5:00 a.m., we capped off the night with a round of bowling, and returned home tired but happy.



President's Perspective and Vision & Governance Update

The Vision & Governance Board held its November meeting on Monday November 7. We welcomed Monty Lysne, Hope's Congregational Faith Formation Coach, to the meeting. Monty shared his experience in the short time he has been at Hope working with Ashlei Buhrow, our interim Faith Formation Minister, and coaching the staff and congregation. His three main focuses have been FAITH5, intergenerational events, and strengths-based work. Please take time to greet Monty on Sunday mornings and get to know him as he continues his work here at Hope.

Treasurer Ruth Hedman discussed financials for the month. She also discussed budgeting for 2017 with liaisons, and answered their questions and concerns about the budgeting process. As we make financial plans for 2017, it's important to remind our congregation members to turn in their pledge cards, to enable us to get a more accurate financial picture for the coming year, as well as to thank all members who have already returned their pledges. As president, I want to express a very heartfelt thanks to all members for supporting the ongoing ministry here at University Lutheran Church of Hope, both financially and with your time. It is truly a blessing.

V&G also discussed next steps for our staffing needs for the coming years as we anticipate Pastor Esther's retirement at the end of January and the departures of James Vitale, Ashlei Buhrow, and Monty Lysne in the spring. We will keep everyone updated as these plans are finalized. Yours in Christ,

John Rydeen
Congregation President

Sheridan Story Packing Event Recap and Request for Volunteers

Twelve Hope members, together with a bevy of volunteers from other Marcy Holmes neighborhood churches, were busy for several hours Sunday afternoon, November 13 packing food at the Sheridan Story warehouse. Healthy, non-perishable food sacks packed that afternoon are slated to be distributed over the following weeks to students at Marcy Open School who qualify for free or reduced cost lunch at school, but whose families often run short of food on the weekends. Our church distributes food sacks to backpacks the fourth Friday of each month at Marcy Open.



The list of qualifying students has recently grown to around sixty, meaning additional Hope volunteers are needed. If you have a semi-flexible schedule and would like to be involved from time to time in this rewarding activity, please contact Bruce Eldevik at reldevik@msn.com or (651) 644-0287.

Bruce Eldevik
Hope in the World



Bible Study 2017

As our Sunday readings turn to the Gospel of Matthew, let's plan to take a closer look at the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). These three chapters summarize the teaching of Jesus to any who choose to follow him. They are both comfort and challenge to every generation. Plan now to join the group for study and discussion. We will meet for six Sundays, beginning January 8 at 11:45 a.m. John Setterlund has prepared a study guide and will lead the conversation.

John S. Setterlund

From the Visitation Pastor



Hope Diamonds

The next quarterly meeting of the Hope Diamonds Senior Group will be Wednesday December 21. Lunch is at 12:00. Please make reservations with your caller or call Pastor Esther at 612-331-5988 or 651-636-7834.

Our program, which begins at 1:00 p.m., will be "Home Building in Guatemala," presented by Arloene Stevens' family. These are their words: "In July 2016, a group of youth and adults from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View, MN traveled to San Raymundo, Guatemala to build a house with the organization, Casas por Cristo. The house was built for a family of 5 in 4 days. It was a life-transforming experience for those who went."

We will also have a time of caroling with possibly, some surprise visitors!

Caring Ministry Training – Winter 2016-17

A new class will be held for those already in Caregiving Ministry and for anyone who would like the training for themselves. The training consists of four free classes, taught by Pastor Esther, with five topics covered: Listening, Confidentiality, Boundaries, Depression, and Grief. Classes will be on the first and third Wednesdays of December and January (December 7 and 21, and January 4 and 18), 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the conference room. Sign-up is required; the sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. There is no requirement for further involvement when you finish this class. Peace,

Visitation Pastor Esther Dant

Hope Diamonds Senior Group Trip to Institute of Art

I really enjoyed the Minneapolis Institute of Art tour of the Martin Luther exhibit. Pastor Esther had recommended not getting the audio and instead reading what we liked, at our own pace – that was a great suggestion. The pulpit Luther preached from at his home church was restored by MIA staff in exchange for its being included in the exhibit. It was very impressive. I want to go again and bring my grandchildren. Thank you, Hope Diamonds, for setting this up early. The one thing I find remarkable is that they did not have a copy of the 95 theses!

Julie Paschke



2017 Women's Retreat

Please consider joining in a wonderful weekend of women together. Much of the weekend is yours to spend as you wish. We will have Saturday morning time together as a group, then the rest of the time is yours. Get to know others, spend time on the trails at the retreat center or drive to William O'Brien State Park, get a massage, spend time in Stillwater, or just have quiet time in a place of your choosing. Here are the details:

Dates: Friday January 27, 6:00 p.m., through Sunday January 29, 12:00 noon

Theme: Connecting from Within & Without - Weaving Faith in Relationships

Location: Dunrovin Christian Brother's Retreat Center, Marine on St. Croix

Cost: Friday night through Sunday morning - \$205 (5 meals); Saturday - \$130 (1 or 2 meals, same cost); Saturday morning through Sunday morning - \$175 (3 meals). Scholarships are available – Talk to Pastor Jen.

Accommodations: Private and suite rooms include a sink, desk, chair, and linens.

Deadline to register: Wednesday, January 18 – **No Refunds after this date**

Registration: Forms available at the Welcome Center, or e-mail Ann Beane at spirit.beane@gmail.com

Questions? Call Ann at 651-245-8226 or email Beata Rydeen at beatarydeen@comcast.net

Special Gifts

Eighth in a series of articles about the Hope Church Trust

The Hope Church Trust Bylaws allow for accepting gifts for special purposes. Currently there are five such special gift funds in the trust: Arts and Environment Fund, Heritage Fund, Library Fund, Music Fund, and Student Outreach Fund. Soon these special gift funds will be closed, and their contents will be transferred to the operating budget dedicated funds for these respective areas.

The certified public accountant engaged by the Vision & Governance Board to do a “financial controls check-up” of Hope’s finances, including the Hope Church Trust, reported that he had never seen a trust structured quite like Hope’s, in which there are special gift funds. Accordingly, the Trust Board was asked to consider relocating its special gift funds to the operating budget dedicated funds.

In an extensive discussion the following points were made:

- The total amount of special gifts money in the Hope Church Trust is quite small – around \$13,000, only about 2% of the trust. These special gifts funds no longer contribute significantly or at all to the growth of the trust.
- This money is meant to be spent, but much of it hasn’t been touched in years. Moving the funds to corollary funds in the operating budget, which is also currently streamlining its dedicated funds, could make them more accessible.
- Administration of the funds would be simplified if this change is made.
- It is possible that some donors may not realize that their donations are going to the trust, and thus that the money may not be actively spent in the near term.
- In many foundations or endowment funds, gifts that are too small to serve the designated purpose or to produce additional revenue are re-directed to an operating fund.

After carefully reviewing the trust bylaws, Hope’s gift policy, and the pros and cons of transferring the special gifts in the trust to dedicated funds in the operating budget, the Trust Board agreed to authorize the transfer of existing funds, with special attention accorded to Donor Intent laws.

At the same time, the Trust Board retained the option to receive special gifts in the future, as per the bylaws, but recognized that it might be more practical to set a minimum amount for such gifts, so that they would function more as legacy gifts than as cash-flow gifts (\$10,000 was suggested as a figure, but no figure was set). Such larger gifts could then become longer-term, investment-oriented funds, suitable to a trust.

It was also proposed that the Hope Church Trust should decline particularly small donations (for example, those made through envelope check-offs), and that such donations be re-directed to the operating budget. However, the Trust Board members felt that it is important to honor all gifts, no matter how small, and questioned how setting a threshold for acceptable gifts could be either accomplished or explained. Accordingly, the Trust Board rejected this proposal.

Merrill Morse
Chairperson, Hope Church Trust

Staff

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel

Rev. Esther Dant

Minister of Worship & Music:

Zach Busch

Minister of Youth &

Communications: James Vitale

Interim Faith Formation

Minister: Ashlei Buhrow

Community Engagement

Coordinator: Nicholas Tangen

Congregational Faith Formation

Coach: Monty Lysne

Business Manager: Gayle Bidne

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah – weekdays

Ben Hartmann – Sunday

opening/closing

Child Care: Clair Gustafson

Working in partnership with

Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

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Eric Ringham

Board Secretary: Ann Agrimson

The Visitor

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Deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of every month, for the following month's issue.

Copies of the current issue of *The Visitor*, as well as back issues, are at www.ulch.org/VisitorArchive.asp or by contacting the church office.

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