



The Visitor



February 2019

Issue #15-2

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

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*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.*

PRAYER PARTNERS AT HOPE

My Prayer Partner

What are your New Year's resolutions? Go to the gym three to four times a week? Read ten books this year? Build a closer relationship with God? Finish a home repair project? Learn more about my neighbor? Be more positive? I believe there are always good things on your list. As we enter into the New Year, I want to invite you to find a New Year's prayer partner!

What are Prayer Partners?

As a church, it is very important for us to build healthy relationships with one another. Becoming prayer partners is a great way to help build relationships. Find someone at Hope whom you want to know more about. It could be someone from a small group you're in (Bread Oven Team, Green Team, Racial Justice Task Force, Worship Planning Team, Quilters, Internship Committee, Neighborhood & Campus Team, Riverside Innovation Hub,...). It could be someone with whom you have already done, or want to do, a one-to-one.

A prayer partner helps you share, learn, and simply be together. In a healthy prayer partner relationship, each person is both a giver and a recipient of care. We share with each other our joys, struggles, and those up-and-down moments in our lives. We pray for and care for each other.

What do Prayer Partners Do?

As prayer partners, you might check in with each other once a month, once a week, or even every day for prayer requests or anything else you want to share with each other. What to share? A brief message from your daily devotions, a Bible verse, or an idea from the news or a book you are reading.

If finding a time to meet in person is difficult, you could communicate by phone, text message, or email. Now you have become prayer partners for each other! Have questions? Contact intern Linqing Chu at intern@ulch.org for more information.



Faith in Community News

Sanctuary & Immigration Strategy Meeting Feb. 17

The Immigration & Sanctuary Strategy Team meets Feb. 17 after worship. Join us to talk about drivers' licenses, sanctuary suppers, and ways to join the fight for immigrant rights. Many of you have signed up to visit your representatives about passing legislation to grant drivers' licenses to our immigrant neighbors and have attended the trainings to do just that. Thank you! This is one powerful way we can leverage our privilege and political power to ensure that Minnesota upholds the dignity of all residents. Restoring drivers' licenses to our undocumented neighbors is good for public safety and for our economy, and lessens the persistent anxiety many feel simply driving to pick up a child, get to work, or visit family.

By the time you read this, a bill will have been introduced in the legislature (God willing) and we will be setting up meetings with our congresspersons and state senators. Here are ways you can support this effort:

- Visit senators and representatives to educate, advocate, stand in solidarity, and ask for their support.
- Share and educate about the drivers' license issue on social media.
- Talk to your neighbors about why this issue is important to you.
- Attend an Immigration & Sanctuary Strategy meeting or a Racial Justice Meet-up at Hope

Thank you for leaning in to the commitments we have made as people of faith to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Dinkytown Farmers Market

We are creeping towards spring, and that means preparing for the second season of the Dinkytown Farmers Market. This year our goals are to continue growing the market's reach, educate our neighbors about EBT and SNAP benefits, create a "third space" in the neighborhood, and provide affordable and healthy food to everyone who visits. We are seeking local sponsors to help us cover some of the costs associated with the market, including hiring a market manager. If you or someone you know would be interested in sponsoring the market or making a donation, please contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org. Be sure to like Dinkytown Farmers Market on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to receive updates!

One-to-Ones

"You can't hope to bring about significant change in a church, community, city or nation without building relationships. All truly transforming change must be built upon the creation of and maintenance of strong relationships." – Robert Linthicum, *Transforming Power*

For several months, we have encouraged one another to practice one-to-ones in our community. These conversations help us grow closer to one another, understand one another's self-interest in this community and the work we are committed to, and get a greater sense of our collective power. Many of you have reached out to neighbors, congregants, and stakeholders, and have found these conversations to be very impactful.

Many of the one-to-ones we have scheduled so far have focused on relationship building. This month I would like you to think of one aspect of Hope's ministry, and schedule a one-to-one with someone about it. Choir, Immigration and Sanctuary, Racial Justice, Sunday School, and Green Team are a few examples of ministry areas to focus on. Ask questions about this ministry area. What gives you hope about the immigration work at Hope? What role does singing in the choir play in your own faith life? What do you think our faith has to say about creation care? This twist adds a new element to our one-to-ones: a better understanding of our neighbors' interests as they relate to the work we have committed to as a community. Thanks for taking risks and for building powerful relationships! Questions? Contact me at nickt@ulch.org

Bible & Brews Feb. 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tangen Residence

Exactly what it sounds like. Join us for a relaxed conversation about scripture, current events, the church, and of course...beer! Bring your favorite libation to share with friends, and any snacks you might want available. Contact Nick Tangen (nickt@ulch.org) or check FB for the address. See you there!

Watching Epiphanies

Over the last dozen or so years, here at Hope and in the congregation I served before Hope, we've celebrated Epiphany with an active Sunday morning. Less of listening to a sermon and more of what I affectionately call "holy movement" (and what some may call holy chaos). A colleague shared the idea with me years ago and since then, every year, we've tweaked it. There are stations around the worship space where people can engage in varied practices linked with the scripture stories of the bright star, the magi's journey, the dreams and possibilities, Herod's telling response to the power born in Bethlehem, and Christ's light shining in and through us.



This year we (all 170-some of us) were all over our worship space. Lanterns were lit. Baptism was remembered. Bread loaves were shaped. Candles were kindled. Short conversations were engaged in. Hopes for the New Year were shared (see the stars on the sanctuary doorframe). Burdens were named (see the rocks in the baptismal font). Healing happened. Doorway chalking was prepared. Prayers were uttered (check out the big world map and all the post-it note prayers). And surely I'm forgetting something.

In the 8:30 service, I'd enjoyed partaking in the holy movement and experienced a few of the stations. In the 10:30 service, I stepped back...and simply watched. I didn't plan to experience the holy movement by simply watching, but that's what I found myself doing: standing a little way from the baptismal font and simply seeing the holy moment unfold. It was powerful, and honestly a little hard to put into words. It was an epiphany of sorts...watching Epiphany was an epiphany.

I watched these amazing interactions between people of different ages. A child dipping in the waters of baptism and reaching to mark the cross of Christ on the forehead of an adult. Someone who'd endured a long illness grasping a stone, silently naming the burdens and worry they carry, and then in trust and hope placing it in the baptismal font. Strangers and spouses, friends and family, all acknowledging Christ's light in one another.

We watch epiphanies every day, if only we give ourselves the time and space to see them. God is revealing God's self over and over again...often right around us. Sometimes I'm moving too quickly to notice. Sometimes I'm distracted. Sometimes my blinders have limited my view. Thomas Merton wrote, "In Louisville, at the corner of 4th and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers." Certainly I don't feel like a stranger with the community of faith at Hope – far from it. But, once again, in an epiphany of sorts, I experienced God revealed in you all, Love revealed. In this season of Epiphany (yes, it continues all through February), I give thanks for these epiphanies. And you'd better believe I'm watching for more! With deep gratitude and love,

Pastor Jen

Enjoy Good Books with the Hope Book Club

On Sunday, Feb. 10, 7-8:30 p.m., at Nancy Miller's home, 2501 27th Ave NE, Minneapolis, the Hope Book Club will discuss *The Women in the Castle*, by Jessica Shattuck.



"Three German 'widow[s] of the resistance,' who spend time together at a run-down castle when World War II ends, embody aspects of the catastrophe that overcame their country." www.kirkusreviews.com "A poignant, World War II page-turner." (Per Sonja's Northeast Library friend Marie Claire).

Mar. 10: *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison. "Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, *Beloved* is a towering achievement by Nobel Prize laureate Toni Morrison." www.goodreads.com. "The best ghost story I ever read." (per Sonja's friend Donna Neste).

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

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." Groucho Marx

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation for All Ages



Children's Ministry

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry in February will focus on the Beatitudes or the "Blessings & Woes". We'll think together about Jesus' most memorable sermon through story-telling, music, art, and, of course...community! February Children's Ministry Schedule:

- Feb. 3: Story Time! (Room 108)
- Feb. 10: Let's Sing a Song! (Sanctuary)
- Feb. 17: Art Expression (Room 103)
- Feb. 24: Community Day! (Lounge)

The Children's Ministry Team will meet Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the library to prepare for March and April rotations. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org



Youth Group

The high school youth will gather on Feb. 3 in the Youth Room for a time of check-in, prayer, reflection, and community. On Feb. 17 we'll meet at Hope and walk to the Purple Onion for a little coffee talk! We'll also gather that same evening at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Lutheran understanding of vocation, theories of change, and our role in a community of faith. We'll discuss more opportunities for fellowship and community building, so keep an eye on the calendar for updates. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Lenten Bible Study

The prophet Jeremiah ministered to ancient Judah at the time of catastrophe, during the collapse of the Jewish monarchy and the deportation to Babylon. His message of warning, submission, and hope strongly influenced the word and message of Jesus, and it rings true in every generation. Pastor John Setterlund will lead a study of the Book of Jeremiah on six Sundays (Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 17, 24, and 31, and Apr. 7) following the 10:30 worship service. A study guide will be provided.



Centering Prayer Fridays at 1 p.m. in Thorpe Chapel

"The least to be learned from the tradition of mysticism is that becoming empty in a world of surplus, learning to switch off, and limiting oneself are small steps in the liberation from consumerism, and that perhaps freedom cannot be imagined without letting go." Dorothee Soelle, *The Silent Cry*.

Action and reflection. Action and reflection. Through these rhythms we engage the world around us as people of faith, authentically and powerfully showing up in community to do the work we have been called to do. In a moment when there is such need for swift and powerful action, we must also incorporate the practices of reflection and contemplation that teach us to "let go." Join us every Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. for Centering Prayer, a silent method of prayer that prepares our faculties for the gift of contemplation. We'll check in with one another, hear a short reading, and spend 20 minutes in silence, resting in God. Questions? Contact Nick Tangen at nickt@ulch.org

Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshops at Hope

"Let us talents and tongues employ!" Beata Rydeen and John Hensrud are presenting workshops on gifts discovery. A Clifton Strengths Workshop was presented Jan. 12. A Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Workshop Feb. 9 will focus on your personality type preferences and how to recognize and use your unique gifts. Registration deadline is Feb. 3. Complete the assessment and share your results with John or Beata by Feb. 5. The free online assessment can be accessed at <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>. If you have taken the MBTI previously, you are welcome to join the discussions for a refresher. By knowing, using, and celebrating the gifts God has given us, we can enrich our congregational life together! Questions? Contact John at jhensrud@homesmsp.com/ or Beata at beatarydeen@comcast.net/

Sunday Forums

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

Feb. 3: 2019 Budget Presentation. As our congregation begins another year of ministry, we will review the budget that is proposed for 2019. Our treasurer, Emma Carpenter, will share how we are doing and where we are headed in the upcoming year. Come, learn, and ask your questions.

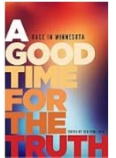
Feb. 10: Guilt Can be a Beginning, But It Won't Take Us Far Toward Racial Justice. Barbara Lundblad will lead us into scripture and theology to claim guilt as a starting point, but not the end, of the justice journey. "Guilt is a uniquely human response; without it we would be less than wholly accountable for our lives. Genuine guilt is an arousal of the heart...guilt is the guardian of our goodness." This quote from Evelyn and James Whitehead offers a picture of guilt as gift. We often think of guilt as a burden. What if we can see guilt as a gift? Where might this gift lead us?

Feb. 17: Beacon Interfaith Housing. Our congregation has long been active with Families Moving Forward, a part of Beacon Interfaith Housing. Recently we have gotten involved in lobbying for a new housing program that Beacon is undertaking. Emily Goldthwaite Fries, congregational organizer at Beacon, will talk about their work. Eliminating homelessness and developing affordable housing continue to be concerns in our communities and are key initiatives of Mayor Jacob Frey. Come and learn about this crucial ministry.

Feb. 24: What is Happening for Girls in Pune, India? For ten years, Hope member Lynette Lamb has helped sponsor Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), a girls' education group in Pune, India. Lynette and her daughter Grace Gerloff spent two weeks in January visiting the ASHA girls and staff. The Hope Trust has helped ASHA by providing two grants in recent years. Hear about the program, see photos of the girls and their homes, and learn how you can help.

A Good Time for the Truth Discussion Continues March 3

The Racial Justice Task Force is sponsoring another chapter discussion on Sunday March 3, at noon after 10:30 worship. The chapter we will consider this time is "Brutal," spoken-word poet Bao Phi's reminiscence of his experience growing up as a Vietnamese immigrant in South Minneapolis.



His analysis of the challenges faced by Asian-Americans, who suffer from stereotyping and racial discrimination by both privileged and marginalized others: "...[T]he tacit assumption that we're the only people of color who participate in problematic and oppressive behavior against other people of color, puts Asian Americas in a position where the only choices we have are to be in collusion with white supremacy against other people of color or an ally to another community. Whether villains or allies, what both positions have in common is that they are tangential—we are marginalized, we marginalize our own experience and our own communities." (p. 87). Kirsten Mebust will lead the discussion. Please join us!

President's Report

One of my favorite cartoons appeared in the *New Yorker* in the summer of 1985. It depicts a nervous-looking man about my age, standing in a doorway, poised to enter a room filled with people of similar vintage. A thought bubble above his head describes his state of mind at that moment: "Yipes, grownups!" I had a similar thought a year ago as I began my tenure as president of Hope's Vision & Governance Board. I confess to a certain amount of trepidation as I took on this role. Surely I had not yet accumulated enough years or enough wisdom to serve in a position that required a responsible, fully-formed adult.

But like the man in the cartoon, I quickly discovered that once I crossed the threshold, I was surrounded by people. In my case, I was surrounded by the people of Hope. These are people who are eager to help; who sit through meetings; who scratch their heads and talk with each other to solve problems; who strive to nurture each other to keep our institution running smoothly and to make a difference in the world. People willing to use their hands to do God's work; who share a common belief in the Gospel; and who sometimes experience the doubts that make faith an integral part of belief. As my year as president draws to a close, I am thankful for the many people who make University Lutheran Church of Hope work. I am thankful for all of you. Blessings,

John Lauber, Congregational President

Treasurer's Report

December 2018 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Dec. Actual	Dec. Budget	Dec. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	42,068	41,976	93	464,718	503,707	(38,989)
Rental Income	12,667	11,723	944	144,235	140,675	3,560
(Net Services and Misc.)	80	-	80	(26)	-	(26)
Total Income	54,815	53,699	1,116	608,927	644,382	(35,455)
Total Expense	54,203	53,698	504	637,717	644,382	(6,665)
Net Operating Income	612	0	612	(28,790)	0	(28,790)

December 2017 and Year-to-Date Income and Expense						
	Dec. Actual	Dec. Budget	Dec. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	78,685	37,392	41,294	443,944	448,700	(4,756)
Rental Income	11,340	11,610	(270)	142,135	139,315	2,820
(Net Services and Misc.)	35	-	40	-	-	40
Total Income	90,060	49,001	41,064	586,079	588,015	(1,896)
Total Expense	62,090	50,501	11,589	596,791	606,015	(9,225)
Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operating Income	27,970	(1,500)	29,475	(10,711)	(18,000)	7,329



December was a good month at University Lutheran Church of Hope! Steady rental income and general giving of \$42,068, contributed to a total income of \$54,815 for the month. Although general giving came in almost 8% under budget for 2018, we are up nearly 5% compared to 2017. For the year, total income was \$608,927. Expenses totaled \$54,203 for December.

In 2018, Hope incurred \$637,717 in expenses. We closely managed our expenses while making strategic decisions and planning for the future. As a congregation in 2018 we were presented with opportunities to expand our ministry, including a pastoral intern, providing benefits to our staff, and conducting a church-wide IT audit. The Vision & Governance Board was fully aware of the risk in accepting additional expenses, and felt confident in our financial position. In 2019, we will to keep a watchful eye on our expenses while continuing to better our congregation and overall mission. Net operating income was \$612 for the month, contributing to a net operating loss of \$28,790 for the year, which is less than 5% of our total 2018 budget of \$644K. The balance sheet is a snapshot of our financial position at a specific point in time. As of Dec. 31, 2018, we have nearly \$260K in current assets, mainly comprising our checking and savings accounts. We continue to maintain a healthy balance sheet position. Contributions to the building fund totaled just under \$10K for the month. After paying our mortgage obligation, we had a net income of nearly \$3K. We currently have \$132,346 in total assets for the building fund. We look forward to Year 2 of our capital campaign, Revealing Hope!

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Emma Carpenter
Treasurer

Riverside Innovation Hub

The Riverside Innovation Hub is a 5-year project designed to help congregations innovate new connections with young adults at the intersections of their faith and their public lives; it is sponsored by Augsburg University's Christensen Center for Vocation and supported by a Lilly Endowment grant.

Our Riverside Innovation Team at Hope is exploring the art form of "interpretation," moving back into our congregation and asking questions about our shared identity. What are our shared theological values? What are the major events in our history? What are the assets that shape our community? As we continue listening to the story of our neighbors, we will bring our own stories to bear on the relationship and look for themes, overlaps, and significant gaps. By exploring these stories and discerning their relation, we seek to find exciting new ways to do young adult ministry in Dinkytown.

Paths to Faithful Caregiving

Do you help a parent, spouse, or neighbor? Is your spirituality an important part of your life? If so, this class is for you. You will learn how to manage stress and difficult emotions, communicate more effectively, create balance in life, locate helpful resources, and find strength through your own unique spiritual practices.

Session topics are:

- Caregivers Need Care, Too
- Mixed Emotions and Loss and Grief
- Speak Clearly, Listen Carefully
- Relationships in Caregiving
- Maneuvering Through the Social Service Maze

When: Saturdays, Feb. 2-Mar. 2, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: First Congregational Church of Minnesota, 500 SE 8th Ave Minneapolis, MN 55414

Register: 651-280-2273 or email caregiving@wilder.org/

Worship and Music at Hope



Wednesdays in February

Holden Prayer Around the World. Once a year, Holden Village invites Villagers across the globe to come together through participation in Holden Evening Prayer. Together, we seek to support and draw strength from one another, reaffirming our values as people who have been called, equipped, and sent, and supporting each other's work in environmental stewardship and justice for all people. Hope's event will take place Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Prayer around the Cross. On Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel, we will hold our monthly Prayer Around the Cross opportunity.

Worship Planning Workshop

On Wednesday evening Feb. 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, you are invited to participate in a workshop to plan elements of our worship for the season of Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday, March 6. We will do a centering/devotional activity and then engage in some creative brainstorming for the upcoming season. A light meal will be provided. Look for a sign-up at the Welcome Center.

Drumming Group

During the season of Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday March 6, we will add a drumming group to our musical activities. Similar to the Advent handbell choir model, we will meet weekly starting in late February, and offer our music in worship throughout Lent and perhaps for Easter Sunday. This group will rehearse weekly (Tuesday or Wednesday evening for 60 minutes, to be determined). If this is something you'd like to join, please reach out to me by e-mail or in person to be added to the roster.

Concerts to attend

Two metro choral events I'd like to highlight come up in very early February.

Together in Hope. The evening of Feb. 9, the Together in Hope Project presents our home concert of the music we brought to Rome in October. The free concert will take place at the Basilica of Saint Mary in downtown Minneapolis. Join this special group in considering and advocating for Christian unity through music. Talk to me for more information.

Carols We Love to Sing. That same weekend, on Sunday Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, the National Lutheran Choir presents a live concert "recording" experience. This concert will be recorded and distributed as part of the well-known "Hymns We Love to Sing" series of recordings. The audience is a full participant in this concert and will be featured prominently on the recording. Come take part and lend your voice! More information at nlca.com/

Zach Busch
Minister of Worship and Music

Congregational Life

Sunday Forum on 2019 Budget Feb. 3, Annual Meeting and Fellowship Meal Feb. 10: Please attend!

The annual congregational meeting of University Lutheran Church of Hope is Sunday, Feb. 10, beginning after the 10:30 a.m. service. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall, share a light lunch, review the past year, elect congregational leaders, approve a budget, and do other congregational business. The annual report will be available on Sunday, Feb. 3. This report contains a record of our ministry together in 2018, the financial report for the year, and information about the 2019 budget which we seek to approve at the congregational meeting. Treasurer Emma Carpenter will present the proposed budget the week before, Feb. 3, in a Sunday Forum. This is an opportunity to hear updates and ask questions about the proposed budget and our financial picture. Please plan to attend both the budget presentation Feb. 3 and the annual meeting Feb. 10.

Dates to Keep in Mind:

- Feb. 3: Budget Presentation at Sunday Forum. Noisy Offering.
- Feb. 6: Holden Evening Prayer Around the World
- Feb. 10: Annual Meeting and Fellowship Meal
- Feb. 15-18: Mount Carmel Winter Retreat
- Feb. 17-24: Families Moving Forward hosted at Hope
- Feb. 20: Prayer Around the Cross
- Feb. 25: Bible & Brews
- Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday, noon and 7:00 p.m. services
- March and early April—Wednesday Lenten Services, noon and 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 10: Bach Cantata in Lenten Service with choir and orchestra
- April 14: Palm/Passion Sunday-Holy Week begins.
- April 21: Easter

Life Events at Hope

We're a community called to hold one another in prayer in every season—in our deepest need and grief, and in our experiences of new life. Here are a few of the life events affecting our community. We need your help to know for what we can pray. Please alert a pastor or the church office. We include in prayer...

Welcoming children and baptism: We rejoice with Ryan Eberle and Amanda Parsons at the birth of their child Harper in December. We pray for those in our congregation who are awaiting children and holding hope in joyful and painful times, and for families preparing for baptism.

Marriages: We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

Deaths: We pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones, including the family of long-time member Ruth Ann Meyer who died Dec. 16; Ann Agrimson and Tim Gustafson, Gus and Peter, at the death of Ann's father Robert Agrimson who died Jan. 9; Mike and Ruth Fingerson at the death of Mike's sister Lila Eickhoff; and Sarah and Nathaniel Cooper Evans, Sampson, Juna, and Liv at the death of Nathaniel's mother Sharon Evans.

Significant Illness: Those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Julaine Kobiske, Peter Ostroushko, Bob Swanson, Janet Carpenter, Hannah Kiresuk, Trish Gorbunow, and Chuck Lewis.

Separation, Divorce, Retirement, Moves, Graduations, and New Beginnings: We hold one another in prayer. God is with us through it all.

Just a Suggestion

- 8 Did you get a great book for Christmas, and read it, but now can't find room for it on your bookshelf? Here's a suggestion. Donate it to the annual Hope book sale in conjunction with the Welcome Students Festival in September.

Care and Nurture Ministry

Let's Get Acquainted with Bob Hoisington

Robert C. Hoisington was born in Iowa in the summer of 1928. One might wonder if his proclivity for playing and coaching sports teams was in his blood from birth. The 1928 Summer Olympics featured Percy Williams, a Canadian track & field athlete who won the 100 and 200 meters. That same summer the Yankees beat the Cardinals in the World Series in four games. Babe Ruth batted .615 for the Yankees; Lou Gehrig batted .545 for the Cardinals. A few months after Bob was born, the Providence Steamrollers football team won the NFL championship. The Duluth Eskimos NFL team folded just before the 1928 Olympic season



Bob with
Jean's picture

Bob credits his athletic abilities and his strong work ethic to his mother Lydia's example and teachings, especially after his father died when Bob was 9. He grew up in Oronoco near Rochester, attending Pine Island High School where he lettered in track, football, basketball, and baseball. He is grateful for caring teachers who held high expectations. His influences were peers, pastors, friends, relatives, and high school and college coaches.

Bob earned a BA in mathematics and education at Macalester College in St. Paul, where he earned 7 letters in track and cross-country. He scored in every meet in which he competed, except for one, due to an injury. He received an MA in education at the U of M and added 45 graduate credits, but no PhD to date. Bob excelled as a teacher and coach, winning numerous awards and recognition for his excellence in coaching and officiating.

Bob and his wife Jean (Meyer) both graduated from Macalester in 1950, but didn't meet until a meeting of new teachers in Windom, MN. He noticed her across the room and wondered how he could have missed meeting her in their years at Macalester. He tells this story of their first encounter: "After that first teacher's meeting, we introduced ourselves and talked awhile. I didn't want to leave that meeting without her, so I reached in my pocket and pulled out a quarter, and I looked at her and said, 'You know, my car needs to be washed, so if you would like to come over and help me with that, I'll split a Pepsi with you.'" Their budding courtship led to marriage in 1952.

He taught high school math and coached at Windom High School until he was drafted into the Army. After the army he taught at Central High School in Minneapolis for 14 years, and at Southwest for 16 years.

Bob and Jean had 4 children between 1955 and 1960. They were proud of Bob Jr., Karen, Barbara, and Lori and their 21 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren (so far). Bob and Jean celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary Jan. 4, 2013. Sadly, Jean passed away June 12, 2013. Bob is indebted to Jean and their children for their dedication and support in helping him reach professional goals. Bob describes Jean as "our family inspiration and a wonderful memory to cherish as life goes on."

Bob celebrated his 90th birthday on last July 30. After coaching track & field and cross-country for many years, he became a certified official. He retired from officiating after 64 years. He says, "Life is a blessing. Will I miss being with the young and old, teenagers, coaches and parents? Yes indeed, always."



Bell Museum Guided Tour & Planetarium Show, Sponsored by Hope Diamonds

Tuesday, Feb. 19. All are welcome – bring a friend! The tour is fully accessible – elevators and benches to stop along the way. Register by Jan. 28 – call the church or sign up at the Welcome Center. Cost is \$15 per person. Make checks to University Lutheran Church of Hope – must be in by Feb.15. Meet at Hope by 12:30 p.m. to carpool; if driving yourself, please arrive at Bell Museum by 1:15 p.m. We'll arrive back at the church by 4:05 p.m. Note: No Hope Diamonds luncheon in February. Contact Pastor Barbara at 612-331-5988 with questions.

Friendly Visitor News

Thanks to all who caroled and delivered poinsettias to our homebound members in December. Four groups visited and sang with more than 15 people. It was much appreciated and enjoyable for all. Thank you to Pastor Barbara for organizing this event.

We invite all past, current, and potential Friendly Visitors to a meeting Sunday, Feb. 3 at 11:45 a.m., after the 10:30 a.m. service. This is a time to check in, share ideas, and update and uplift our ministry.

Finally, as our congregation matures, we are finding more people who could use a Friendly Visitor. If you know of anyone who needs company, please contact Rosalie Eldevik or Sara Tufvesson Doure.

It's Time to Start Thinking about Families Moving Forward

What is it?

Families Moving Forward (FMF) is a program within the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Through FMF, 80 host congregations throughout the Twin Cities provide temporary housing for families who are transitioning into stable housing. Find more information at <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/what-we-do/families-moving-forward/>

When is it?

Families will be at Hope from Sunday, Feb. 17 to Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019. We will need support leading up to the host week in addition to the days following the host week. We are excited to welcome any and all help – no amount of help is too small.

What is changing this year?

This year, we are looking for ministry groups to volunteer to host a 24-hour block (think breakfast to breakfast). Within that time, it's up to the group to divide up the responsibilities. We welcome long-time FMF volunteers to encourage other ministry groups they are involved in to join them in this fulfilling event!

How can I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved. Roles include:

Overnight Volunteer: We need one male and one female to stay overnight in case of emergency. Responsibilities include reminding families of quiet hours, being available to answer questions, and setting up and cleaning up cold breakfast and coffee. The Friday volunteers will be asked to make a hot breakfast on Saturday morning. You can expect a quiet evening with plenty of opportunities to sleep. This commitment is roughly 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Sunday-Sunday.

Afternoon/Evening Children's Volunteer: We need 3-5 people to greet families as they arrive back to Hope for the evening. Responsibilities include homework help and providing entertainment and supervision for the children. We invite you to stay for dinner and get to know the families before heading home for the evening. This commitment is roughly 4-9 p.m. Sunday-Saturday.

Dinner Volunteer: We need a group of 2-3 people to prepare dinner for the families each night. This can be done in advance and brought to church, ordered in, or cooked in Hope's kitchen. Historically, meals take into consideration what was served at recent host congregations, as well as individuals' preferences, and are easy and nutritious. We encourage family involvement in preparing, hosting, and cleaning up the meal. This commitment is roughly 4-7:30 p.m. Sunday-Saturday.

Set-Up Volunteer: We need 3-5 people in the days leading up to the host week (Feb. 17 to Feb. 24) to assist with preparations: setting up the space, gathering supplies, running errands, and ensuring that all details are completed prior to the families' arrival. This commitment is more flexible in time and can be worked around your schedule, with the major need on the Saturday and Sunday before families arrive.

Clean-Up Volunteer: Similar to the set-up role, we need 3-5 people to assist with tasks after the families have moved to their next location. Responsibilities include cleaning up spaces where families stayed, doing laundry, thorough cleaning of the Hope kitchen, and general tidying. This commitment is more flexible in time and can be worked around your schedule, with the major need on the Sunday families move on.

We are excited to honor everyone's time commitments and talents. No amount of help is too small! FMF host week is very busy and, as the saying goes, many hands make light work! By offering to fill one role, on one day, you are opening your heart to meeting people where they are, both in life and in circumstances. We invite you to see what happens!

Who should I contact if I am interested in volunteering, learning more, or have questions?

Gretchen Peik at gretchen@peiks.net; Abby Lucas at Abigail.jean.lucas@gmail.com; or Christine Nielsen at christine_344@hotmail.com

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