

## YEAR OF CHANGE

BY: JONATHAN ZIELSKE | PASTOR



John Metcalfe, Pastor Jonathan, Sally Young, & Elise McDermott helping lead worship in Zacalau, Guatemala

How much things can change in a single year! As I think back over the past year, I feel that this year, more than any other in my nine-plus years here at Hope, was a year of change. Now I know, that for some of us, that's nerve-wracking and unsettling. But, for others of us, those same unsettling feelings are also exciting and energizing. To me, it is a sign that God is doing a new thing. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says:

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

When God is doing a new thing, I am reminded of the shepherds "living in the fields, keeping watch" who, upon being visited by angels say to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

This past year, I have perceived that God is doing a new thing insofar as we set aside our old model of Church Council in favor of a Core Leadership Team and we did away with typical council meetings and have instead assembled together at monthly Community Leadership Huddles which include a meal. This is not merely a change in nomenclature, but a genuine, flattening out of our structure in the best sense. Rather than thinking that the work of the church is primarily the pastor's job or that ideas and decisions can only be made by THE COUNCIL, we have gone from not being able to get people to serve in these official capacities and having the number of attendees under ten, to now having an average of 15 people engaged regularly. And I thank God for that change. Our Council President, Joe Stodola, our Vice-President and Mission Support

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Team Leader, Judy Dorner, our Council Secretary, Krysten Carlson, our Congregational Life Team Leader, Cindy Heitman, and our Congregational Mission & Outreach Team Leader, Larry Cowan are an amazingly faithful and dedicated group and have not only been great about getting things done but we have also been having fun doing it!

Another new thing that God was, and continues to be, doing is through the work of our renovation project to create the Heights Center for Hope. This place we know of as Hope Church has always been what I have called, "a homemade church" because of the involvement of its members in building and renovating many areas over the years - and that tradition continued during the summer months and into the fall as we renovated our lower level. But the new thing that I see God doing is that I believe this time, more than any other, we were renovating a space with an eye on making it a welcoming and hospitable place for those who are not yet here. And through our Congregation Mission & Outreach Team, we are actively seeking ways to give it away to the community. This is a new thing. And I thank God for that change.

Two additional things that I want to mention and give thanks to God for include the wonderful staff that I feel privileged to work with and our continued Guatemala partnership. Brie Trovall, Tim Snyder, Nancy Cowan, Russ Carlson, Daylan Callahan, and Janet Tyndell are each so gifted and enjoyable to work with, this past year has been one filled with laughter and blessings. Sadly however, we had to say goodbye to Russ as he chose to resign and take another position as a music minister elsewhere.

As we continue together making "this thing that has taken place" known to others, may we continue to be mindful of, and excited about all that God is up to in our very midst. It feels like risky business at times, but if it does not, then I would say we are not risking as much as God is calling forth from us. Some time ago, we used this verse as a theme for our Making Christ Known Campaign and it continues to inspire me, and I trust, you as well: "Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness" (2 Corinthians 3:12).



# OUTREACH IN 2011

BY: TIM SNYDER | OUTREACH ARCHITECT

There can be no doubt that 2011 was a big year for outreach, evangelism and social justice here at Hope Lutheran Church. Over the past year we have seen some big changes here at Hope and in those changes we have seen God actively inviting us to participate in God's mission. Witnessing God's ongoing renewal of this congregation over the past year has been one of the most exciting things to see in my five years of full-time ministry.

Here are some of the highlights of what God is up to:

We adopted and implemented a new pilot model for congregational leadership. We now have more (approx. 50% increase) members participating in core leadership. This continues to develop with new leaders stepping up and at times long-time leaders taking on new roles.

We undertook a significant (\$25,000) remodeling project of the lower level. Countless volunteer hours were poured into this project and it has paid off. The lower level looks stunning!

We became a "Transforming Congregation" of the ELCA and received a \$30,000 + grant to initiate new opportunities for mission and ministry.

We launched The Heights Center for Hope in September. Since then we have hosted monthly events ranging from art shows to candidate forums to kids events. Over 250 participants (most non-members) attended a center-sponsored event this fall!

This winter we began to pilot our Kids Program through two events we hosted in partnership with The



Heights Elementary School. Both our Winter Program in December and our January Kids Art Show have been significant steps in that initiative; though we still have much to learn.

The Congregational Mission & Outreach Team report details has further reflection about the ways that team has led this process. However here are some additional reflections and some things to look forward to in the year ahead.

First, I am continually amazed at the faithfulness of our ministry together. What I mean by that is that time and again in my conversations with members here at Hope, I hear a faithful consistency that insists that God is not done changing lives and shaping a community at the corner of Hazel and Clear streets. Your commitment to learn new ways to do ministry and mission in this place is a unique gift. Treasure and may we never lose sight of that blessing.

Second, as we continue to reach out to our community with new program and events we must remember that this is just the beginning and that the long road is still ahead though it feels like so much has changed. The goal was never to host big events. The goal is to build relationships and to accompany the Hayden Heights neighborhood as we proclaim God is here in

# HOPE HAPPENINGS

February Service Team			
Cindy Heitman: Team Lead	651-773-0404	Larry & Nancy Cowan	651-770-1108
Opal Davids	651-774-5294	Howard Drager	651-777-9563
Lucille Gebhard	651-777-6288	Gina Gorsuch	651-771-7189
Vern & Inez Kenyon	651-483-6454	Carol Martinson	651-776-6469
Gina Ricci	651-774-9779	Jacque Rossow	651-774-2057
Clara Sorenson	651-704-0920		

March Service Team			
Andrea Oster - Team Lead	651-776-0350	Denise Alexander	651-774-6863
Elaine Altstatt	651-776-5862	Mara Altstatt	651-762-7752
Michelle Besky	651-674-0169	Jim & Edith Campbell	651-773-3351
Mary Latterell	651-776-8367	Heather Svenson	651-330-2675

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STARTS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010

We will kick-off our Wednesday After-School 4th through 6th grader consortiums on February 15th. Students will meet at 3PM on Wednesdays at the Heights Center for Hope. The program starts with refreshments and introductions and catching-up with each other's lives. Then we'll zero in on art projects, physical exercise, development of gift-discerning portfolios, cooking ethnic snacks, games, homework help, and, weather-permitting, outdoor activities. We end at 5PM after closing/sharing. On February 29th, March 28th, April 25th, and May 23rd, we'll have special end-of-month celebrations. Adult volunteers, we need you! Contact Linda Weidenbach for details at Lindakjw@gmail.com or 850-766-5640.

## WINTER ART SHOW

On January 22nd, approximately twenty gathered for a wonderful evening at The Heights Center for Hope. Our first annual kids' art show featured the theme "Where I live" — voted on by their own student council. We gathered together around warm cups of hot chocolate and cookies to celebrate the creative genius of these kids and their lovely art. It is so good to experience art that is so innocent and free. We also enjoyed a special musical performance by singer-songwriter Nate Hogue.

Because of the weather and learning how to better communicate with the school, we are working with The Heights Community School to find other opportunities to have the kids see their art and their friends' art. Look for more about that in the coming weeks!

*Outreach...continued from page 3*

this place. We still have lots of work to do; may we be bold in our mission together.

Finally, as we look ahead to 2012 I want to share with you the mission priorities that will shape our ministry at The Heights Center for Hope, led through the work of the Congregational Mission & Outreach Team. Over the next year you will see a four-fold emphasis on: (1) The Kids Program—to engage with the youngest members of our local community, (2) Community Forums—to engage issues and developments crucial to the vibrancy of our neighborhood, (3) Art Shows/Music—to express the creative diversity of the people who call this place home and (4) Community Garden—to engage in a shared community project while modeling the care for creation which God has called us to. These are quite the mission priorities and I think you will agree that they demonstrate the boldness and faithfulness of our hope in what God is inviting us into.

# MEET WILLIAM & LINDA WEIDENBACH.

We have some new faces around Hope Lutheran Church. Meet Linda & William Weidenbach. They will be with us until the end of this summer. William is volunteering through Luther Seminary's contextual education program and Linda is the new Youth Outreach Fellow. We look forward to getting to know them the next few months.

William was born and raised in Rochester, New York; the eldest of three sons born to a first generation German-American. He moved to Tallahassee, Florida in 1994 with his now late wife and their two children, Kimberly (now age 27) and Joseph (now age 24), both adopted from Korea at three months old. Linda and William met at Grace Lutheran Church in Tallahassee and have been married for 13 years.

William is currently in his second year of seminary at Luther Seminary, in the Master of Divinity program and moved to Minnesota in January. Pastoral ministry will be a third career for William; he spent ten years as a truck driver with Eastman Kodak in Rochester, and twenty years as an accountant in Rochester and Tallahassee. He also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from the Center For Biblical Studies in Tallahassee. He looks forward to participating in services, functions, and projects at Hope Lutheran Church and getting to know everyone in his new church home before this summer, when he will leave for his year of internship in a yet-to-be-assigned location.

Linda is completing her Masters degree in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry from Luther Seminary. Born and raised in Chicago, Linda moved to Tallahassee where she completed her teaching education and taught middle school science for ten years full time and for the past five years taught all grades as a substitute teacher. When William and Linda married, William's

children, Kimberly and Joseph, were 11 and 14, so Linda got to nurture children at home. Linda loves to travel and has visited the Philippines, Japan, England, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Uganda, Tanzania, and several of our states, including Alaska and Hawaii.



She looks forward to working with youth at Hope while tying together her interests in theology, education, wildlife management, and outdoor ministries. She is also excited about being in the Midwest again, close to her mother's family in Chicago and her father's family in Northern Wisconsin, although there may not be as much time for visiting as she'd like, in between full time classes (she graduates in May) and packing up for parts as yet unknown with William where he will begin internship for the MDiv program in August. "We then get to come back to St. Paul for a year again though," she happily says.

## LYNGBLOMSTEN HEALTHY HEART SUNDAY

Deb Bowman from Lyngblomsten will be joining us for a service of healing on February 12th. She will be doing a temple talk mid-worship on our Lyngblomsten partnership. Following worship, she will be giving a health talk during the adult forum, and we will be reviewing the use of our heart defibrillator. We appreciate this long standing partnership and look forward to hearing about Lyngblomsten's ministry on the East Side.

# 89TH ANNUAL MEETING

## NOTES

January 29th 2012

SUBMITTED BY | KRYSTEN CARLSON 1/31/2012



Chair Joe Stodola thanked the congregation for their commitment to Hope throughout the last year and thanked council members for their support and work through the year.

Pastor Jonathan Zielske shared some highlights from his annual report, and thanked the congregation for their continued support of Hope. Vice President, Judy Dorner gave the concluding financial report for 2011. Their be a 2% raise from the LDS building this year.

Outreach Architect, Tim Snyder shared highlights from his annual report and thanked the congregation and the mission support team for the support during the Grant proposal process and the renovation that followed. Carol Overland gave an overview of upcoming events happening in the HCH. They include 3 art shows, a community forum on housing and a special Earth Day event kicking off the community garden.

Election of Leadership was brought to the floor by Chair Joe Stodola. Those nominated: Joe Stodola: President, Roberta Wagner: Treasurer, Carol Overland: Congregation Mission and Outreach, Larry Cowan: Mission Support Team. All nominations were

passed. Judy Dorner, Vice President presented the 2012 proposed budget as approved by Council Leadership, which includes a 2% raise for all staff across the board. The 2012 budget in the amount of \$170,270 was passed.

Tim presented the 2012 Budget for the Heights Center for Hope (as this money is already allocated for certain programs it did not need to be approved by the congregation). The meeting concluded with the introduction of the 2012 Leadership Team.

## "TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!"

Yes, it's early to be thinking along these lines but we have reserved 25 tickets for the Twins vs. the Chicago White Sox at Target Field on Tuesday, June 26th - it's a 7:10 game - and we need folks who are interested to not only let us know but pay for their ticket(s) now. The cost is \$25 per ticket and includes a coupon for a hot dog and soft drink. We will be sitting in the family section which is section 311; we will be in the first seven rows. Please get your money in quickly because if there are more than 25 people interested, we are not certain if we can add to this order and still have everyone sitting together.

### February Communion Assistants

5	Tim Snyder & Joe Stodola	612-524-2259 771-0748
12	Ken & Karen Barrett	771-0017
19	Andrea Oster & Irene Cline	776-0350 778-8341
26	Dave & Carol Overland	778-0853

### February Lectors

5	Tim Snyder	612-524-2259
12	Ken Barrett	651-771-0017
19	Joe Stodola	651-771-0748
26	Nancy Schiller	651-771-0792

# FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES</b>						
14 Mike and Judy Dorner 15 Greg and Kathy White			1 7:30 PM Hope Choir 6:30 PM GBLU Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 11:30 AM GBLU Worship	6 9:30 AM Bible Study	7 4 PM Bookclub 6 PM Community Huddle	8 7:30 PM Hope Choir 6:30 PM GBLU Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship: Lyngblomsten Healing Service 11 AM Adult Forum 11:30 AM GBLU Worship 3 PM ISAIAH Gathering	13 9:30 AM Bible Study	14	15 9 AM Emmaus 3 PM After School Program Kickoff 7:30 PM Hope Choir 6:30 PM GBLU Bible Study	16	17 TWINSTICKET MONEY DUE	18
19 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 11:30 AM GBLU Worship	20 9:30 AM Bible Study  DEADLINE FOR MONITOR	21	22 Ash Wednesday 3 PM After School Program 6:30 PM GBLU Bible Study 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	23 7 PM Congregational Mission & Outreach Team Meeting	24 7 PM Men's Nite Out!	25
26 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 11:30 AM GBLU Worship	27 9:30 AM Bible Study	28	29 3 PM After School Program 6 PM Soup & Bread 6:30 PM GBLU Bible Study 7 PM Lenten Service	<b>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</b>		
				4 Mike Dorner	10 Hulda Jensen	
				4 Lucille Gebhard	22 Vern Kenyon	
				5 Judy Dorner	25 Maxine Nelson	
				9 Brenda Reichow	26 Elvera Ufer	

# MINISTRY PARTY

Jonathan Zielske | Pastor  
 hopechurchsaintpaul@gmail.com  
 www.twitter.com/PrjZielske

Tim Snyder | Outreach Architect  
 tim@heightscenterforhope.org  
 www.twitter.com/curatinghope

Brieanna Trovall | Communication Harmonizer  
 brieheightchurch@gmail.com

Nancy Cowan | Organist

Daylan Callahan | Custodian

William Weidenbach, Jr | Contextual Education

Linda Weidenbach | Youth Outreach Fellowship



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[www.twitter.com/heightscnt4hope](http://www.twitter.com/heightscnt4hope)

## 2012 LEADERSHIP TEAM

EXECUTIVE TEAM		TEAM LEADS	
Joe Stodola	President	Larry Cowan	Mission Support Team
Judy Dorner	Vice President	Carol Overland	Congregational Mission & Outreach Team
Krysten Carlson	Secretary	Cindy Heitman	Congregational Life Team
Roberta Wagner	Treasurer		

## BOOK CLUB

March 6th, we will be meeting at 4 PM to discuss the book *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. *Unbroken* is a story about a young lieutenant bombardier in WWII attempting to survive after a crash.

In her long-awaited new book, Laura Hillenbrand writes with the same rich and vivid narrative voice she displayed in *Seabiscuit*. Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

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