



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

November 2003

Edited & Published
by Elisabeth Buckley

Our Mission Statement

We believe that God has gathered this congregation and staff at this time and place in order to:

Introduce people to the enduring love of Jesus

Invite them to become part of his family

Instruct them in the Scriptures

Include them in the celebration of worship, and

Inspire them to serve God according to their gifts

Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service

November is a month of Remembrance. We celebrate the Feasts of All Saints, All Souls, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christ the King. At Hope Church, November is the month when we remember our beloved friends and family members who have crossed the threshold between this life and eternal life.

Our Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service is held on the Sunday in November closest to All Saints Day. At three different places in the liturgy, names are read as family members come forward with candles, light them from the Christ Candle and place them on the Communion Table. With the growing number of lighted candles, the sanctuary increases in brightness until it is fully lighted, reminding us that the One who claimed to be the Light of the World - our Savior, Jesus Christ, is present with us.

This year's service will be held on Sunday, November 2nd at 6:00 p.m. To register the names of loved ones you wish to be remembered at this service, call the church office: 732-542-0706

New Lunchtime Bible Study

A new lunchtime discussion group will begin weekly meetings on Tuesday, October 28 at 11:00 am. The group is open to all. Discussion for the first few weeks will be centered on a video by Philip Vancey based on his best selling book, "The Bible Jesus Read." Plan now to bring a brown bag lunch and join the group.

The Gleaners Christmas Silver Tea One of the highlights of the Christmas season here at Hope is the Gleaners Silver Tea coffee hour during Advent. This year the tea will be after church on Sunday Dec 21st. Plan on staying after church that week for this special time of fellowship.

An Update and Greetings From The Gleaners

We are participating in the project for Presbyterian Women "Mission Opportunity for Sowing" headed by Lori Evans of Monmouth Presbytery. Our project will be knitting preemie hats and booties for infants with HIV/AIDS, coordinated through local hospitals. If anyone from the congregation would like to join us in this project, please contact Marilyn Gifford at 732-542-3049 or Margot Eble at 732-389-3352. We have instructions for making both items.

The book "Behind Enemy Lines" by our own Gwynne Mahns is available for your reading. It is an account of her exploits working for the Lord behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War. Several copies are on our table in the John Calvin Room. Pick up a copy and make a donation to our kitchen cabinet fund and you will be blessed.

Upcoming Gleaners event: AVON PARTY on Wednesday, November 12 from 6 - 7:30 PM in the John Calvin Room of the church. Please bring your orders. The proceeds will go to our kitchen cabinet fund. A gift basket will be raffled off.

Gleaners meet every second Monday of the month (Sept. - June) at 7 PM (new time) at the church. All women of the church are welcome.

New Member Class

Letters have been sent out to all those that had indicated an interest in joining our next class. If you did not get a letter, but are considering membership at Hope please join us. Coming to the class does not obligate you to join, but it does provide you an opportunity to know us better and to deepen your faith journey. If you are interested, see Rev. Cotton or Jean Buckley

Stewardship 2004

Our fall Stewardship project got underway on October 9th with Rev. Cotton speaking to the congregation on some aspects of stewardship. On each successive week our pastor will share some of his insights into Christian giving and our local budgetary needs. During the next two weeks you will receive a special letter from Rev. Cotton concerning our faith and stewardship. With the letter there will be a stewardship commitment card. We hope that you will prayerfully consider your financial giving for next year. We are all so blessed by what God has given to us it's now time to give something back. Stewardship is not only about our treasure, but the use of our time and talents. The letter will ask you bring the commitment card to our special Stewardship Sunday on November 9th when these gifts to be dedicated. If you are unable to attend you can mail it or bring it the following Sunday.

Newletter We want to better inform our members and friends of the activities of the various organizations of the church. Committee Chairs of the church please let us hear from you because much of the success of this undertaking depends upon you. So write an article, or just give us the facts and we will write it for you! The Dec. "Notes of Hope" deadline for articles is Wednesday Nov 26th via email to esbuckley@monmouth.com or the Sunday before in church.

Building Fund "Honoring our Debt"

Well three years are almost gone and our current "Honoring our Debt" campaign to cover our mortgage payments will be over with the receipt of gifts next June. The session has agreed with a recommendation from elder Steven Buckley that we discontinue the use of these three year campaigns.

Starting with January 2004 the church will provide 12 monthly envelopes for our continuing building fund mortgage needs and we will continue to use the phrase "Honoring our Debt". Everyone will get the 12 required new envelopes including those of you who currently have the old envelopes from the current campaign. For those of you with the old blue envelopes we only ask that you throw out the ones you currently have for the months of January through June 2004 and start using the new ones that we are providing to everyone. Marilyn Gifford our receipts treasure is gearing up right now for this new way of contributing to the "Honoring our Debt" building fund mortgage payments.

Visionary Meeting "A Living Hope"

At the October session meeting Rev. Cotton announced that he is inviting the session, deacons and some other leadership people to a special meeting called "A Living Hope" to be held on Sunday evening November 9th at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove.

As Rev. Cotton stated it's high time that we begin to take some significant strides and ask ourselves what kind of church do we need to be to attract the kind of pastor we want to call? If we can get a handle on this question the answer might require openness and change. It will require moving out of our comfort zone. It will require allowing new voices and new ideas from new sources. It will require patience as we try and adjust and try again. It will require honesty and open communication as we work together to achieve our goals.

How can we best glorify Jesus as Lord and Savior? How can we best share the good news of Jesus Christ with others? What do we want to be in five years / in ten years? There are so many questions...

This process will begin at this special meeting. Hope needs all the leadership to become involved and enthusiastic and energetic about moving forward. This will be a great event to take part in and to help chart our course to the future.

As Rev. Cotton said "I'm so grateful to be able to be your pastor at this exciting time in the history of Hope Presbyterian Church, Tinton Falls. Thanks so much for all your love and support. Together we can be a life-saving station for Jesus our Lord. Wow! What a privilege!"

Advent Fellowship

The annual Advent supper is sponsored by the Deacons is followed by a worship service which will be held on December 14th. Details will appear starting around November 23rd. This will be a pot luck type of dinner with the deacons providing the desert.

Thanksgiving Service-When We Gather Together.

Our Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday evening November 23rd at 7 pm. Rev. Yang and the Korean congregation will be there along with the congregation of the AME Zion Church of Eatontown. Rev. Harrigan of the AME Zion Church will be the featured preacher for the evening. There will be a time of fellowship following the service. Please plan on attending this service as we pause in our busy lives to give thanks to God for all we have been given.

Unexpected Financial Gift Received

During September we received a \$1,000 gift from the Korean Congregation. At our last session meeting it was decided to apply this unexpected financial gift to help us cover our shortfall in required mortgage monies. The session directed clerk Elder David Harris to send a heart felt thank you note to the Korean congregation for their generosity.

Wyckoff Road Clean UpBe Part of the Solution!

You may have noticed the signs on a one mile stretch of Wyckoff Road just west of Hope Road past the Parkway overpass. Our church twice a year performs community service by picking up trash on the road side under the leadership of Elder Lou. Eckert. Our next opportunity will be on November 2nd at 1 PM. Please meet at the church parking lot for the project.

Advent Reflection Booklet- Looking For Contributions From Members & Friends

In recent years under the capable leadership of Editor Gwynne Mahns our "Advent Reflections" booklet has been published and enjoyed by so many. Again this year, Christmas traditions, recipes, memories, and reflections on hymns and scriptures can be submitted to Gwynne by Sunday Nov. 16. If you have an idea Gwynne will even give you help in coming up with the finishing touches. We love to share the booklet, but we all need to be part of the whole process!

Christmas Eve Services...Check the Time Change

Our traditional family service is moving to a new time this year at 6:45 pm. We hope this will allow more folks time to get home from work and attend the service. The Korean's will have a service at 8:30 and a joint combined Anglo / Korean service will be held at 10:00pm. The late service will feature our traditional candle light atmosphere. Please plan on attending one or more of these services as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dec. 31, 2003 New Year's Eve In A New Tradition Consider spending this special evening of bringing in the New Year with friends right here at Hope Church. The Korean congregation is sponsoring this event for both Hope congregations. The time has been set for 11:30pm to 12:30am with more details to come. Let us plan to share the beginning of this New Year with old and new friends!