



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



# NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

January 2004

Edited & Published  
by The Buckley  
Family

## 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

## AN INTERESTING MONTH

**Rev. David Cotton, Pastor**

Well, the month of December certainly had its hits and misses, ups and downs! We started with Advent with a wonderful service as we anticipated the arrival and involvement of Stephen and Juli Bounds and their daughters. The second Sunday of Advent, however, presented a far different picture. Upon arrival at the church I was greeted with Carl Fritche's car stuck in the church driveway, which had not been plowed despite the personal arrangement made by Elder Steven Buckley and reported to me the evening before. As a result, we were forced to cancel the entire service. From excitement and enthusiastic about celebrating Advent and welcoming Stephen, I drove home disappointed. I must say the Deacons did an excellent job calling the people on their lists to relay the news of our cancellation.

It was going to be critical that all of us that support the work of Hope Church contribute twice the amount of income on Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> to make up for the snowed out week. Well to those who believe God provides. The offering for the 14<sup>th</sup> of December was about twice of a single week. What a great congregation in being so faithful a steward of what God has given all of us.

As you read the news letter you will have experienced three Sunday morning worship services and Christmas Eve services with new instrumentation, new arrangement of the chancel, new volume, and new music. This is where the rubber meets the road regarding the changes that were discussed and affirmed at the Ocean Grove Leaders Retreat. What were once concepts are now realities. I urge you now, as I did then, to talk to Stephen, Gwynne and me about the new worship style. Please give it some time for your ears to become accustomed to and your heart to become impacted by the spirit. We'd love to hear from you, especially if you want to

practice the Gift of Encouragement. But if there's something that bothers you, we want to hear about that too – not indirectly “through the grapevine” – but face to face. We will make this a positive transition that will take several months and a lot of modifying along the way. If we can all demonstrate patience with the process and patience and honesty with each other we will all be the better for the journey together. Thanks for being such wonderful, willing, open sisters and brothers in Christ. I love being at Hope, and I love working with you. May the love of the Lord, our Emmanuel, truly be with each of you this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

## **WHAT DID JESUS DO? - JESUS CAME INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!**

The Gospel of John, chapter one talks about how, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Another popular paraphrase of this section says, “Jesus came into the neighborhood.” The concept is that Jesus came and lived among us and was relevant to his surroundings. Every sermon he preached, every parable he told, every example he used, was something that the people around him were very familiar with. Often times he just showed them things with God’s eye view (an aspect they had forgotten about).

Many of you are probably wondering who I am and why I am here at Hope. Well, in a nutshell my mission is to make the church relevant to its surroundings just like Jesus was and is relevant to every aspect of life.

How do we do that? There are three questions we must ask ourselves:

- What is the purpose of Hope Presbyterian Church?
- Who do we want to reach for Christ (In what neighborhood has God planted this church)?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to reach them?

Already Juli and I have been surveying the area and speaking to unbelievers about what styles of music they are in to. Music is what touches the soul and inspires the heart. Music is the one universal language. Certain styles of music put us in certain moods. Emotions are evoked by certain songs.

If we want to be relevant to our surroundings and society then we must offer them a style that will attract them and draw them into the presence of God.

My goal is to see Hope Presbyterian Church burst at the seams with people wanting to get to know and experience God in a way that will change their lives and lifestyles radically. I ask that you come along willingly on this adventure of God’s grace and that you open your hearts to what God has for this body of believers.

Yours in Christ, Stephen Bounds - Worship Coordinator

## **NEW EQUIPMENT COMING!**

At the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the session Stephen Bounds made a presentation as to what types of new electronic equipment the church needed if we wanted to be relevant to our surroundings, the community at large, and our society so we could offer a style of worship that would be attractive and draw them into the presence of God. In order to have the best contemporary style worship service that combines the elements of our traditional reformed worship and the emerging praise style of worship into what is know as a blended style of worship service the session approved the purchase of about \$4,000.00 in new equipment. We will spend about \$1,500.00 on sound equipment and about \$2,500.00 on visual equipment. Items to be purchased include 12 channel mixer, amplifier, equalizer, compressor, cabling, microphones, LCD projector, motorized screen, computer, software and a DVD player. . Funding sources are now being determined so stay tuned.

## **NOTES FROM GWYNNE MAHNS WORK**

Gwynne said at the end of her November report to the session, “*As someone in the choir said, the dynamics are going to be interesting: Stephen is coming as a consultant to teach and train worship leaders – including me- here at Hope. They’re all eager to see how this is going to work out in practice. Me too!*” As she will tell you it’s been a little over three weeks and things will be fine if she can find enough time to get in all the extra practice required.

Gwynne has had many rehearsals and meetings with Stephen as he teaches and trains everyone involved in worship including our choir in new Praise songs and liturgy that will be used in our blended worship services. She has added more songs to the worship service bulletin and eventually we will have the words projected on our new projection equipment.

145 copies of the Advent Reflection Booklets were printed by Gwynne. All the families who come to Parents Night Out received copies along with an invitation to attend our Christmas Eve Services.

Gwynne noted that Carl and the Bell Choir had worked very hard on Christmas music. Carl is also providing private lessons right now to one aspiring hand bell ringer. Carl has told Gwynne that he is very pleased with all the ringer’s progress and commitment.

As Gwynne said from now on you’re going to see more people involved in instrumental music. As an example on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December we had hand bells, keyboard, flute, guitar, singers and drums.

Gwynne said this is going to take a lot of rehearsal and musical arranging hours, but she is sure the effort will be God-honoring and worthwhile.

## **A BIG THANK YOU**

Thank you all who have helped to make our move to New Jersey so pleasurable and comfortable. All the gifts and kind words of welcome have really helped to make us feel very much at home in your midst. We’re very much looking forward to these next few months at Hope Presbyterian Church.

Stephen, Juli, Selah and Seanna Bounds

## **NEW YEAR’S EVE:**

Spend December 31, 2003, New Year’s Eve, starting 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. Let us plan to share the beginning of this New Year with old and new friends!

### **ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2004**

At this meeting all reports for what has occurred during 2003 here at Hope Presbyterian Church are presented. For our newer members and friends on the preceding Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, the report booklets will be distributed so you can have a week to read them over. In addition the budget for 2004 will be presented. All committee chairs, treasures and staff are requested to have submitted their reports no later than January 11<sup>th</sup>. I know this appears to be early but the way the calendar is this year we lose one full week to prepare the booklet.

### **GREETINGS FROM THE GLEANERS**

We have been diligently working on our Love Calendars which we will be distributing in January for use in February. A friend of our group has joined us in our Mission Project for the making of premie hats, booties and blankets.

In other news a package of used paper back books was sent to Chaplin Gil Richardson who is currently serving as a division chaplain with the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry division Taskforce Iron Horse in Tikrit Iraq.

Chaplin Richardson writes that our solders are dedicated souls who see that they are making a difference in the current stability and the future prosperity of Iraq and perhaps the Middle East.

In addition to used paperbacks chaplain Richardson asks for magazines and DVD's for distribution to the solders, airmen and civilian workers in his division in Taskforce Iron Horse.

The chaplains address:

Chaplin Gil Richardson  
HHC, 4 ID (M) – Chaplin  
Unit # 92628  
APO AE 09323-2628

A very happy and healthy 2004 to all from the Gleaners

### **WORSHIP AIDE POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Your church could use your help in the various worship aides positions. If you are looking for a way to “ease into service”, there are a few positions that you could fill with little or no experience. If you are not yet a member, these positions are still open to you. This could be just the thing to help you put names to faces you see each week. You will never be alone in any situation. Someone will always be there to guide you and answer questions. Best of all is that you can start by being a substitute serving only when we are in need. Here are some of the areas of need:

**Usher:** An usher greets worshippers at the door and hands them a bulletin. During the time of offering, an usher will pass the plate to those sitting in the pews. Ushers also hand out the friendship pads during the passing of the peace and collect them after the service is completed. On a communion Sunday, they will collect and dispose of the communion cups after service. They serve 2 weeks in a row in rotation.

**Nursery:** Nursery people care for our youngest members in the John Calvin room while their parents worship. We do not have little ones in the nursery very often but we schedule someone every week just in case. If there are no children, the nursery person worships as usual. An usher will summon you, if needed, during service. They serve 1 Sunday in a rotation.

**Sexton:** Sextons are a very vital part of service to the church. They clean our church before service on Sunday. This can be done on Friday or Saturday depending upon your schedule and the schedule of Parent's Night Out. There are detailed instructions available to aid you in what is necessary to be done. Normally, there are two (2) people cleaning as a team. If you want to help in this area and do not have a team partner, we will find someone to team up with you. They serve 1 week in rotation.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Church School will once again sponsor the Souper Bowl of caring collection on Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The offering collected will be donated to a hunger program in our immediate area.

It is the intention of the CE committee that early next year they will set up a task force to plan for a Jr. & Sr. High youth program. It is their intention to put together a program outline so we will be ready to start the program by next fall.

**Pancake Breakfast:** On Fat Sunday February 22 the Sunday School will once again be sponsoring a pancake breakfast to celebrate the start of Lent. I have it on good authority that Rev. Cotton will be asked to be the head chief again. Be ready for a great time of fellowship and good food to eat. It was great last year.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

If you're making donations to both the General Fund and the Building Fund, or any designated giving please write separate checks. Our Treasurer Marilyn Gifford is not able to divide one check between two or more bank accounts.

Boxes of envelopes for making contributions in 2004 were available for pickup starting Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup> in the lobby of the church. If there wasn't a box left there with your name on it and you would like envelopes please contact Marilyn Gifford. For those of you with the old blue building fund envelopes we only ask that you throw them out and start using the new ones.

It's never too late; you can still turn in a stewardship commitment card by mailing it or bringing the card to church and place it in the morning worship offering plates. Please take care to understand that the regular card is a commitment only to the regular church operating fund. If you also wish to **start or to continue** a commitment to the building fund you must hand write the words building fund and the monthly amount you wish to contribute to that fund. If you misplaced your card extras are available at the visitors' center in the lobby with the added wording already on them.

### **PARENTS NIGHT OUT (PNO)**

January 16th from 6:30 pm till 9:00 pm. This is an evening of free childcare in a safe, fun environment, so parents can do some shopping, or go to the movies, or just take a break from the hectic week.

### **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET:**

This year's booklet will be ready on Sunday February 22 for you to pick up. This booklet will be written by members and friends of Hope Presbyterian Church. It will contain short devotional messages, remembrances from Lent over the years and much more. There is a reading for each day of Lent. Submissions must be ready by Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> and given to Gwynne Mahns.

We will try and print enough copies so you can use this as a "tool" for your own Lenten Outreach by taking an extra copy to give to a friend, neighbor, or colleague with an invitation for them to join you in church for one of our Lenten, Holy Week or Easter services.

### **NEW LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY:**

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

### **DO YOU ENJOY THE MUSIC OF CARL FRITCHE?**

We've all enjoyed Carl's music on different occasions in the Church. If you would like the opportunity to hear his music at home or in the car, you may purchase a CD of his original songs. All funds from the sale of these CD's go the Building Fund. If you would like to purchase a CD or need more information, please see Carl. These CD's would make a great gift for Christmas.

### **NEWSLETTER:**

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 February 2004 "Notes of Hope" deadline for articles is Sunday January 18th hand written or via email to [esbuckley@monmouth.com](mailto:esbuckley@monmouth.com).