



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



# NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

December 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

### Advent Service and Pot Luck Dinner – December 12<sup>th</sup>

Please plan to join us for our Advent service and Pot Luck dinner to be held on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The service will begin at 5pm, and will include decorating the Christmas tree and the church. We will be joined by members of the new Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Jackson, and we will be presenting them with a gift which represents a portion of our mission giving for this year.

The service will be followed by a Pot Luck dinner, sponsored by the Deacons. Please bring a main dish or salad to share. Dessert and drinks will be provided by the Deacons. Please sign up for the dinner on the list in the Narthex by December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Hope Church 2004 Christmas Card Display

This Christmas season the Deacons are asking members and friends of Hope Church to bring a Christmas card to the church to be displayed in the narthex for the holiday season. This will be done in lieu of our sending Christmas cards to others in the Hope Church community this year. Please bring your card to the church anytime between November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Deacons will then accept donations associated with Christmas card and postage savings, and these donations will be presented to Love INC. Your donation can be placed in the offering plate, and checks should be payable to Hope Church with a notation of "Love INC". Thanks in advance for your participation and support of Love INC during the holiday season.



### **Church School News**

Church School kids have completed their first G-Force unit "In the House," learning how God wants us to live within our families. We've been busy collecting and packing goods for Duane Cole and his unit in Iraq. Thank you to the congregation for its generous help! Terri Cole has called us Hope Prayer Warriors, and so we continue our support with letters, cards and prayers in church school and at home. The congregation can be very proud of the heartfelt letters the children have written.

Nov. 14 was an exciting lesson on mission when Jessica Cotton shared the experiences she and Dan had in Panama. The church school students learned about their work in Panama and saw how individuals can use their talents to work for the Lord. Students and teachers were able to see how their contributions of money and health products were put to use. In addition, we saw many beautiful examples of Panamanian craftsmanship in weavings, basketry, carving, and stitchery. We were all able to appreciate another culture, see the difference that individuals can make, and expand our own visions of service.

During Advent church school children may attend the beginning of the service with their families or sit with their teachers. We'll proceed downstairs after the Advent ritual. We'll be making special star ornaments for the church tree, and having G-Force Advent themed lessons. There will be no church school on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

### **Youth**

Over the last couple of months the youth of Hope have been meeting at the Dan and Jessica Cotton's house for a time of fun, encouragement and study of God's Word. It is exciting to see the youth come together and form a group that fosters positive relationships and one that gives them a sense of community within the church body. The youth is meeting on the second Friday of every month from 7-9pm at the manse (Cotton's house).

### **Hope Mother's Group**

The mothers of Hope Presbyterian church are coming together every other week for a time of fellowship, play time for the kids and short bible study/devotional time. It is a wonderful opportunity to form deeper friendships with the mothers in the church and to share in our struggles and triumphs. We are beginning a new bible study soon, so come and join us. We meet every other Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 at the manse. Our next meeting is Dec. 7th. Mom's of all ages are welcome!

**Newsletter** We want to better inform our members and friends of the activities of the various organizations of the church. Thanks to all who submitted articles this month because much of the success of this undertaking depends upon you! Committee Chairs and various groups of the church please let us hear from you, write an article, or just give us the facts and we will write it for you! The January "Notes of Hope" deadline for articles is Wednesday December 29th via email to [esbuckley@monmouth.com](mailto:esbuckley@monmouth.com) or the Sunday before in church.