



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

March 2005

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

A CHRISTIAN SEDER DINNER

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2005

At 5 P.M.

Downstairs in the John Calvin Room

Bring the entire family to participate in this Seder Meal that has been a ritual of tradition celebrated by Jews all over the world to commemorate the angel of death “passing over” those homes with lentils and doorposts that were marked by the blood of a slain lamb.

The “Feast of the Passover” was one of the highlights in Jesus’ life during Holy Week. It was His last celebration of this Feast, and it has come to be known as “The Last Supper”. This meal marks the beginning of our Christian celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The Hebrew term “Haggadah” means “what is said”. “Seder” means “order of events”. The Passover Haggadah is what is said, sung, recited, and enacted in this joyous celebration, and we will use parts of the Haggadah for our service.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex. Each family is asked to bring their own plates, silverware, glasses, napkins, and one candle and candlestick per family. Juice and soda will be provided, and you may bring wine if you so desire. As in past years, the meat will be provided by the Committee, and each family will be asked to provide an accompaniment dish. When we know how many will be attending, we will be ready with your cooking “assignments”!

During this Lenten time of reflection, let us join together in this celebration that is so important to our Judeo-Christian heritage. Come learn the meaning and symbolism of the Passover Meal. It will truly be an experience to remember!



Church School News

Church school will meet at our regular 9:30 time on both Palm Sunday and Easter. On Easter morning we'll have a special celebratory breakfast. Friends are always welcome!

The Souper Bowl of Caring collection on Feb. 6 by the Church School Kids collected \$171 for the Monmouth/Ocean Food bank. Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations as we put God's Love into action.

Church School students will be sending \$100 to Stephen and Juli Bounds to support their ministry in Austria. Having recently studied the work of missionaries and the ways we can help them, we want to thank Stephen for what they brought to us here in Hope Church School (G – Force) and support their efforts to spread the Good News.

Celebrate Spring with Dinners for Eight

Waiting for sunny days and warmer weather? They're on their way, so it's time to make plans to get out of our winter cocoons. Rev. Cotton has shared with the Adult Ed. Committee a unique way for adult members and friends of Hope to reconnect through "Dinners for Eight", an opportunity for small groups to meet three times over the period of about six weeks for dinner and discussion. This program has maximum flexibility because each group of eight will select their own dates and types of dinners in each others' homes: take-out, covered dish, buffet, sit-down, or even pizza ! It's up to you! Sign-ups will begin March 13 with more information available during Coffee Time. At this time we estimate the program will run from early April through mid-May. Watch the Bulletin and poster displays for more information.

Groups will be matched up with an eye toward geography, and of course couples and singles are welcome. Rev. Cotton will provide "kick-off" questions for each dinner, so no need to worry about what to talk about to get started. Please plan to get out and meet some new folks over good food at three dinners. This is a great opportunity to move beyond our picture wall and Sunday morning sightings to develop friendship and spiritual bonds within our Hope family.

Mothers Group:

The Hope Mom's Group continues to meet every other Tuesday at the Manse from 9:30-11:00. Together we are studying Proverbs 31, A Wife of Noble Character. Recently, the study has focused on the importance of being disciplined, diligent and enterprising. I have found this small group of moms encouraging and supportive in my role as a mother and a wife. Sharing common struggles and victories gives a sense of community among the mothers and motivates us to pray for each other and our families.

Youth:

The youth group meets every 2nd Friday of the month from 7-9 at the manse. The young people enjoy a time of fellowship, games, and studying The Word. We began studying the book of Matthew using this Gospel as a model of how to study other parts of the Bible. The kids are learning to look deeper for meaning, examine the context and understand the author and his audience. In addition to our regular meetings, we are beginning to meet one on one with some of the kids in efforts to get to know them better and have a more intimate time of discipleship. Finally, the group is hoping to attend a youth conference in Baltimore, Maryland, at the end of Spring and together we are seeking the Lord about making this financially possible for each youth member. Please be praying for the youth, that they would hunger for a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Christian Surfers:

The Lord has blessed our group of Christian Surfers. This group began meeting twice a month in Brick, but recently felt the Lord leading them to meet every week. Approximately 30-40 kids and adults attend the meetings every week to encourage each other in their faith. Most of the members are surfers, but it is not a prerequisite, as many of the non-surfers are there for the fellowship with others who love Jesus. The meetings consist of a fellowship, praise and worship, and time in The Word. The group is taking a day trip to Camelback on March 5th to snowboard and have some extended time together. Please be praying for this group as many new Christians attend, and our desire is for each of them to be planted in a church.

ATTENTION HOPE PRES. LADIES:

I am eager to get to know all of you and I thought a night out together would give us chance to fellowship and come together as women in the church. My cousin is a Creative Memories consultant and said she would be happy to do a Creative Memories party for all of us. You do not have to be into scrap booking to come, as the main purpose of the night is to fellowship... it is simply to give us something to do while we chat.

I have scheduled our night together for Friday, March 11th from 7:00-10:00 at the Manse. (If we get a huge response we will have it at the church????). *This Sunday, there will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church if you are interested... this will help me plan for snacks and for my Cousin Sarah to plan for how many materials she will bring. There is no obligation to buy anything or start your own scrapbook, just come and enjoy. If however, scrap booking is your thing or you think you may want to make a purchase, Sarah will have plenty of materials with her and she can also order for you.*

Normally there is a fee for the evening, but Sarah is not charging our group... so just come and enjoy the fellowship. *She asks that you all bring at least five pictures with a common theme, as we will be making a scrap booking page together.* If you have your own scrapbook already started, bring it and you can work on that too.

Hope to see you there. I look forward to getting to know you! Jessica Cotton

APPLE CAKE

9 X 13 Pan, bake in 350 degree oven, 1 hour

1-1/2 cup Canola Oil	2 cup Sugar
2 Eggs	2-1/2 cup Flour
1-1/2 tsp Baking Soda	1/2 tsp Salt
1/2 tsp Cinnamon	3 cups Apples - chopped
1 cup Walnuts	2 tsp Vanilla

Mix apples, nuts, sugar, oil and vanilla, Beat in eggs.
Add flour, salt and soda.
Pour into greased pan and bake approximately 1 hour.

Doris Woolley
Enjoy

Editors note when Doris Woolley had fellowship time a few weeks age she made this. If you have a great recipe that you have cooked or bake for something at church that you would like to share why not submit it to the editors for next month?

YOU ARE INVITED TO CASA PICASSO... PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY STUDIO at the Jersey Shore Arts Center "old" Neptune High School Main Ave & Main St. (Rt 71)

Family and friends of Hope Church are planning an evening at Casa Picasso for Sat. March 19, from 5-9 pm. This would be a great thing to bring a friend with you. It is going be a great Night of fellowship and simple art expression. Bring a sandwich and beverage to hold you over. Contact Jean Buckley 732-544-1131 or Kelly Colao 732-747-3277 for further information or to sign up.

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 April "Notes of Hope" deadline for articles is March 24 via email to esbuckley@monmouth.com or the Sunday before in church.

SAVE THIS DATE!

On Sunday afternoon, May 1st, all the various music groups of the Brick Presbyterian Church and the Hope Presbyterian Church will combine to give a wonderful concert at Hope. Write this date on your calendar, and plan now to attend. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.
Gwynne Mahns, Music Director