



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

February 2006

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

Lenten Devotional Booklet

It's that time of the year again! Do you have a faith story, experience or thought that you would like to share in our Lenten Devotional booklet? Reflect on all the blessings you received this past year. Remember the times you felt God at work in your life. Perhaps you have a favorite hymn? Why is it special to you? How does God speak to you through that hymn? Write down your thoughts and add a prayer and a Bible passage that reflects the story. Submissions may be emailed to Carol-Jeanne Turk at nanaturk@hotmail.com, or given to her in person. The deadline for submission is Feb. 12th. Let's all be thinking of what we can add to make our Lenten Devotional Booklet special—for our congregation and for those with whom we may want to share it! Sometimes all it takes is to hear someone else's story to make you realize that God exists for each and every one of us. Maybe your story will touch the heart of someone who needs to feel God's presence in their life.

A Devotional Project for Easter Sunday and Beyond

Would you like to take part in making a devotional resource for our church family? The idea is for us to make a cassette/CD of sung, spoken, played prayers and Scripture for us all to be able to play in our cars, or at home for personal or family devotions etc. The recording would be made by all of us ... the people of Hope Church - for the people. We would recognize each other's voices. Everyone in the church could take part in this project ... instrumentalists, choir members, praise team members, church school students and teachers, the Gleaners, the various Adult Bible Study groups, the pastor, staff members, individuals, families. It would be the people ministering to each other. We could use resources from the Book of Common Worship, the Hymn Book, readings from previous Lenten Devotional Booklets, the Taize book of prayers, etc. If you would like to take part and encourage this project, talk to Parish Assistant, Gwynne Mahns. We would like to see this project get off the ground *soon* and be **ready to hand out to everyone on Resurrection Day.**



INVITATION

Come expecting to have fun at our open-mic Family Variety Show – Sunday evening, February 12 at 6 PM. There'll be something for *everybody* in the program and we hope *everybody* will get involved. Can you sing, dance, tell a joke, play an instrument, other? Add your name to the sign-up sheet on the welcome desk and we'll plan a good program. After the show, the Deacons will be hosting a wonderful dessert party. Plan now to enjoy a fun-filled evening out with family and friends.

Church School News

Souper Sunday

On Feb. 5 church school kids will be waiting with their soup pots after the service to collect cash donations for "The Souper Bowl of Caring". Your donations will be used to fight hunger in our own communities as we join with youth across the country in this effort. Once again, we will send your donations to the Monmouth/Ocean Food Bank.

Pack up the "Alleluias"

Join church school kids on Feb. 26 as we participate in a new tradition at Hope Church. The children will wave festively decorated Alleluia sticks every time they hear or say "Alleluia." Since we do not say "Alleluia" during the service for the forty days of Lent, the children will pack up the Alleluia sticks before they go to church school, symbolically recognizing this custom. On Easter morning the Alleluia sticks will be unpacked and joyfully waved by all in celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Fat Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing

On Feb. 26 the children will enjoy a pancake breakfast and view a video on the work of *One Great Hour of Sharing* around the world. Individual *OGHS* coin banks will be assembled to take home and used for a special collection during Lent.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

The Sunday Adult Bible Study Groups have met with a lot of interruptions the past 2 months due to meetings and activities following Worship Service. Consequently, the group looking into the **Old Testament** is just in the middle of the Book of Daniel. There have been a lot of historical facts to discuss and the group is now at the point of Daniel's visions. In the previous chapters they were with him in the "Lion's Den, at the fiery furnace, and the Handwriting on the Wall" as Daniel interpreted the king's dreams with God's help and guidance.

The **New Testament** group is looking into the Gospels and discussing the various encounters Jesus had with ordinary people. We would love to have you join us in one of these groups.

Coming Soon - Easter Candy Sale

Get ready for our second annual sale of Old Monmouth candy for Easter. Once again, the Deacons hope that many of you will jump in and help with this fundraiser by selling candy to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

“Hope - It’s Good ! ” Cookbooks

A reminder from the Deacons that there are still some cookbooks available for purchase for \$13. Now that you have tried out some of those great recipes, how about picking up additional cookbooks for your friends and family so they can try them too. See any Deacon any Sunday during Fellowship Time.

Thank You!

The Deacons wish to thank the Hope family for their generous support over the Christmas season. Through your generosity, we were able to bring joy to the 22 children in the families from our community that we supported. In addition, our thanks for supporting the Hope Family Christmas Card display. Through your donations, we were able to send a check to LOVE INC for \$95 to support their local missions in our community.

From the Worship Committee – Mark Your Calendars!

On Wednesday March 1, 2006 Hope Presbyterian will have an **Ash Wednesday Service**. This will be at 7pm. This will be a short service with communion and imposition of ashes. Please mark your calendars and plan on coming to this very meaningful service. This is an excellent way to focus on the Lenten season and inwardly reflect on what Christ has done in our lives.

The Worship committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 14th at 6 PM and again on March 14th, at the same time. We will start quarterly meetings thereafter. All are encouraged to attend and share in their vision for the future ministry of Hope Presbyterian Church.

A Reminder from our Receipts Treasurer

Just a reminder: You don’t have to be a member of the church to financially support the ministry of Hope Presbyterian Church. If anyone would like to have their own offering envelopes for the General Fund or Building Fund, please see me, Marilyn Gifford, or place a note in my mailbox on the lower level of the church, and I will be happy to help you.



**One
great hour
of sharing**



GLEANINGS FROM THE GLEANERS

The Gleaner ladies will be holding their annual Valentine's Day Party and meeting at Marilyn Gifford's home from 1 PM – 3 PM on Monday, February 13th. We're all looking forward to it, and praying that the weather will be kind to us!

In January we gave a baby shower for Kelly Van Pelt. We had a luncheon and sixteen ladies came. What fun we had! Kelly's baby is due in March and we're praying for a safe delivery and a healthy baby.

The Gleaners will be holding an Avon party at the church on March 29th, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. **All** - ladies and gentlemen - **are welcome!**

The February LOVE calendars are in your hands and homes, and we're hoping to receive a lot of them back at the end of February. Grateful thanks to all who support this annual project.

Meet our Newest Members

Stephanie and Steve Demchock are both from upstate NY and have been married since April 20th, 2001. Together, they enjoy music, movies, reading, and being with family and friends. One of their biggest interests has always been travel. Together, the only 3 states they have not been to are Alaska, Hawaii, and Michigan. It has been a "dream" of theirs to, some day, travel to Europe. (*A note from Gwynne at this point: would anyone at Hope be interested in taking a group trip to Central Europe and/or England? That's MY territory. I would love to act as Tour Guide!*)

Despite their passion for travel, Steve and Stephanie say that the stability they have found here in New Jersey, and the spiritual family they have gained in Hope Presbyterian Church, have been true blessings.

Steve is currently working in the trucking industry (still traveling, just a bit more local), and Stephanie works in Auto Insurance Claims.

WELCOME ... STEPHANIE AND STEVE!

It's Been A Long Time ... But PARISH NURSING is Active Again!

We're enthusiastic about informing you of a workshop we will be holding immediately after Worship on Sunday, March 19th in the John Calvin Room. We invite you to get your coffee and cookies and come prepared to think about the following topics. We'll help you walk through some of these issues that all of us should plan for and think about.

* For a Christian, a funeral/memorial service can be our last public statement of faith. Therefore, we want to make sure that our funeral expresses what we truly believe.

- * Will there be any kind of viewing? For some close friends and family members who did not have an opportunity to say ‘goodbye’, this may help them to have closure.
- * What will be done with your body? Buried in the ground? Entombed in a mausoleum? Cremated? If the latter, you might want to give some thought to what you want done with your ashes.
- * What Scripture lessons do you want to have read?
- * What hymns/choruses/songs do you want to have sung?
- * Are there prayers, poems, or other pieces of music that have inspired you that you would like to see incorporated into the service?
- * Is there anyone in particular that you would like to speak at the service?

Remember that funerals/memorials are primarily for the benefit of the living, not for the benefit of the dead. If you want to give expression to your faith and bring comfort to your loved ones, we urge you to think about these things now and join us for the ‘Christian Memorial Service Planning Workshop’ after church on March 19th.

WHAT’S A DPNC?

You may have seen the bulletin insert that talks about the DPNC here at Hope. It’s been a while since we originated the DPNC, and I thought you might want a refresher on what it is, what it does, and why it’s necessary.

First, DPNC stands for “Designated Pastor Nominating Committee.” This is the committee that, on behalf of the church, will conduct a search process to bring us a Designated Pastor to lead our congregation.

What’s a Designated Pastor? Even if you’ve been a Presbyterian for many years, you might be a bit vague here. Although this position has been on the books for a long time, it’s only recently that Designated Pastor has come into favor, and therefore more widespread use. A Designated Pastor is an interim position, like Interim Pastor, with two basic differences. First, the church and the pastor agree to a specific contract of two, three, or four years in length. The second difference is that at the end of the specified contract term, after a thorough search, if the church and the pastor agree, he/she can be called as the permanent pastor for the congregation.

What does the DPNC do? The DPNC at Hope has been in existence for over a year. Much of the preliminary work is completed, with the exception of the Mission Study, a process that leads the congregation through a period of self examination, asking them to look at where they are, where they are going, what kind of future they envision, and what kind of pastor will best lead them in that direction. Please pay attention to the bulletin insert and take advantage of the opportunity to add your voice to this process.

When the Mission Study is completed, all the necessary paperwork will be forwarded to the Presbytery, and we will be given the OK to go ahead and post our CIF (Church Information Form) – a kind of help-wanted ad for a Designated Pastor. Once that has been done, the DPNC will begin to receive PIF's (Personal Information Forms) – a kind of resume for Presbyterian pastors and candidates. The DPNC will look at all responses, narrow the list, interview several, have the favorite and the congregation meet, and prayerfully & diligently select the right person to lead us into the future God has in store for us.

Why is a DPNC necessary? The Presbyterian Church USA is very specific about the process required to call a pastor. We are accountable to the principles and processes of the PCUSA, and we want not only to do the right things, but also to do things right.

Why now? We're growing and moving forward. We need to look to our future and make choices now that will continue the process as we invite people in to become disciples of the Living Christ and then send them out to share Christ with the world.

What's your role? We have several vacancies on the DPNC right now. If you feel called to participate in this process, Hope needs you and your gifts. Please contact the Nominating Committee Chair Steven Buckley if you are interested. But there's a role for everyone, both members and friends. You will be asked to complete a survey and to attend one of two group sessions as we conduct our mission study. I hope you will be willing to stay a few extra minutes to join us in this important task. Your voice matters! Please take part as we move ahead, following our Good Shepherd, the source of all hope.

Blessings!

Rev. David Cotton