

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

April 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

HOLY WEEK IS COMING!

Holy Week is almost upon us! I hope you will plan to be present as we remember our Lord's Passion and celebrate the triumph of His resurrection.

Palm Sunday, April 9, 9:30 AM

This Sunday service will feature a joyous remembrance of Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The children will participate, the music will be lively, and we have palm crosses for everyone to take home.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7PM

This inspiring service will conclude with the moving "Upper Room Communion, served at tables of twelve to invoke the spirit of that blessed night when Jesus shared a last meal with his disciples and established for us a perpetual means to remember his sacrifice until He comes again.

Good Friday, April 14

>From 6-8 PM Hope offers a time of quiet contemplation for individuals or families who wish to come and honor The Lord's atoning sacrifice on the cross. There's no formal service, but there will be a meditation for those of you who wish to observe this day.

EASTER DAY, April 16, 9:30 AM

We pull out all the stops for this most wonderful of days! Music of all kinds will ring from the rafters, the Easter narrative will be read and Christ's victory over death preached, communion will be served, and the celebration will be awesome as we praise our awesome God. Get here early – there's only one service!

Blessings!
Rev. David Cotton



One great hour of sharing



MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

The OGHS offering began more than 55 years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. More than 75,000 churches participated. The next year, the offering was repeated, using the name "One Great Hour of Sharing" for the first time.

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), the gifts received from the offering is divided in thirds. Each of three programs - Self-development of People (SDOP), the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) - receives 32 % of the offering, the remaining 4% goes to the PHP for its work on homelessness and affordable housing,

We are asking you to consider making a generous donation for the One Great Hour of Sharing. The offering will be collected in designated envelopes that will be available in the pews on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Church School children will be making their offerings in the fish banks that have been distributed in their classes.

In giving these gifts, we make the love of Jesus Christ real to thousands of people around the world. Let us thank God for this opportunity.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

Church School News

It's a good thing we super-sized our rhythm instrument order to accommodate our growth over the winter. All church school students and young visitors are invited to support the Praise Team during our time in worship. We are enjoying making a joyful noise.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, Church School students will sing and shout "Hosanna" with our Hosanna sticks. Children will sing "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" and participate in a celebratory parade.

On Easter Sunday, children will stay with their families in worship for the entire service.

Women's Book Group

In early May, we'd like to begin a book group for the women of our church. The book we'll be reading is Beth Moore's *Believing God*. This book is about developing an action verb faith rooted in the Word of God. The plan is to meet for five or six sessions on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30. We can also arrange a daytime group if there is interest. See Kathy Heller for more information. *Believing God* will be on display during Coffee Hour along with a sign-up list.

GLEANINGS FROM THE GLEANERS

We continue to have our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month from 1 PM - 3 PM. All ladies of the church are invited to join us. We have a lot of fun together. For instance, at our March Meeting we all wore silly hats - just for fun.

On April 9th - Palm Sunday - we will host the Refreshment Time after the service with our Silver Tea. This is always a very special occasion and we invite you to celebrate with us.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our fund-raising candle party on Wednesday, May 3rd from 6 - 8 PM.

Finally, many thanks to all who supported our Love Calendar project. We're most grateful.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

Memorial Flowers are being ordered for Easter. Inserts will be available in all Sunday bulletins up until April 9th. This is a wonderful way to remember, honor or celebrate a loved one or occasion and beautify our church at the same time. The cost is still \$10.00 a plant. Please see Carol Jeanne Turk or Cyndie Van Bavel if you have any questions.

Holy Week Events This Easter season during Holy Week, Hope Presbyterian Church will be offering three opportunities for worship - April 13, 14 and 16th. Maundy Thursday, the 13th, celebrates the Last Supper that Christ had with his disciples. Communion will be served in the Narthex and served around a table commemorative of the same way disciples sat with Jesus. The service starts at 7pm. On Good Friday the 14th, the church will be open from 6-8pm for a Prayer Vigil and quiet meditation to reflect on Christ's sacrifice. On Easter Sunday the 16th we will celebrate Christ's resurrection with a single service at 9:30 am. Please plan on attending as we honor our risen Lord!

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee is opening a designated **Memorial Fund** in memory of Mary Moran, who had attended Hope Presbyterian Church. Mary had been active in our choir and Bell Choir. To honor her memory, the committee would like to purchase choir chimes. Any one who would care to make a donation in her memory may do so. Checks may be made payable to the church with Mary's name on the memo line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE DEACONS

Easter Dinners

For those who have taken an egg from our Easter 'giving tree', please remember to return your food items to the church on Palm Sunday, April 9th. The dinner ingredients will be delivered to our 7 families in need on that day. The Deacons thank you once again for helping our families enjoy a special Easter meal on this very special day.

"Hope - It's Good!" Cookbooks

A reminder from the Deacons that there are still some cookbooks available for purchase for \$13. See any Deacon any Sunday during Fellowship Time.

Save the Date

Save the Date for the following upcoming events:

Deacon Car Wash - Saturday, June 10th - 9 to 12

Pumpkinfest - Saturday, September 23rd - 9 to 2 (Rain date, September 30th)

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY

Jesus said: "Blessed are those who mourn for God will comfort them" (Matthew 5:4) We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the following:

- The the family and friends of Isabell Adams upon the passing of her husband, Maurice
- To the family and friends of Mary and Dave Harris upon the passing of Mary's mother, Marie C. Woods

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE DESIGNATED PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (DPNC)?

The DPNC continues to meet and move toward the goal of calling a fulltime new pastor to lead the family of God at Hope Presbyterian. Your cooperation has enabled the committee to complete the church's Mission Study.

The next step is to complete the Church Information Form (CIF). It's the church's "Help Wanted Ad," to use a familiar comparison. The CIF tells something about our congregation, our strengths, challenges, etc. and tells what kind of pastor we're seeking in terms of characteristics, theology, skills, etc. Of course, the CIF also gives the salary, housing details, etc.

When approved by the Presbytery, Hope's CIF will be posted on a national website where seminary students and pastors looking for a congregation can go to find opportunities that fit their vision, needs, and calling.

Those seekers who feel as if Hope might be a good fit will send their Personal Information Forms (PIF's) to Hope. PIF's are equivalent to a resume that one might send to a company to apply for a job – only these are specific to the Presbyterian Church.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless this undertaking and lead us to connect with the right person at the right time!

MANSE MINISTRIES UPDATES

Mom's Group: The Hope Mom's Group began meeting again in January, and after a couple cancellations due to sick children, we are back up and running again. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:00 at the Manse. Recently we have been going through the book Captivating by John and Stasi Eldredge. The book encourages women to seek after the heart of God rather than striving to please others or fit the mold of a perfect wife and/or mother. We are enjoying our study and have had some great discussions, which enables us to understand and pray for each other better.

Youth: Many of the youth in the church have been taking a confirmation class in preparation for becoming members and as a way to grow in their faith. The class meets once a month and is designed to present the fundamental principles of the faith and challenge the students to make it their own. Each student is required to memorize the Apostle's Creed and also develop his or her own faith statement, which will be presented before the body on Pentecost Sunday.

Much of what the youth is studying in confirmation class has carried over to our discussions in youth group; however, here we have more time for discussion and application in the kids' lives.

Christian Surfers: Christian Surfers continues to meet every Saturday from 5-7 at "The Garage" in Brick town. The group is growing and seeking new ways to meet the lost of the Jersey Shore. Recently, the group began to focus each meeting on something different in order to meet the various needs of the group. On the first Saturday of the month they show a surf movie and focus on outreach, on the second Saturday they do an alternative activity such as meet down at Manasquan inlet and evangelize, hand out Christian Surfer's stickers to the surfers on the beach or simply be available for people to talk and find out more about their group. And on the third and fourth Saturdays, they do a Bible study. Currently they are going through the book of John.

Please be praying for the group as they head into the summer months and focus on bringing more surfers to Christ. Also they will be taking their annual missions trip to Panama at the end of June. Please pray that God will bless this trip and the people of Santa Catalina as Christian Surfers looks to minister to this local community.

To find out more about this ministry go to www.csjerseyshore.com

MISSION & OUTREACH

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The mission committee has 29 volunteers signed up to work with Habitat for Humanity in May. We will work at helping to build a house in Neptune. Because there is such a great response to this, we will have to split into 2 groups (as they only want 14 at a time), each one working on one of 2 Saturdays, either May 6th or May 13th.

For the volunteers, I will have more specific information for you at a future meeting.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Another mission project for May will be helping to clean up Wyckoff Rd. as our part in working with the "Adopt-A-Highway" organization. We will be asking for volunteers for this also, which will be the afternoon of May 21st, so mark your calendars. The organization provides us with the reflector vests, bags and the pickers, so all you need to bring is work/garden gloves. We will all meet at the Church at 1:00 P.M. on May 21st. A sign-up pad will be available at a future Sunday. Many hands make fast work — we can be done in a couple of hours if we get enough volunteers.

PROMPTINGS FOR YOUR PRAYERS

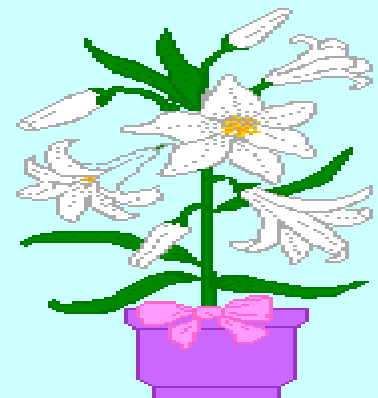
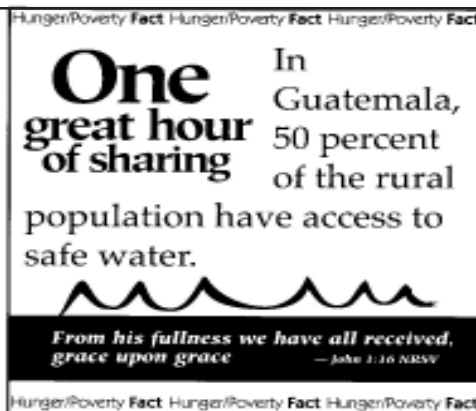
The Apostle John wrote: *"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul."* (3 John verse 2)

The members of the **Prayer Chain** invite you to join them in following the Apostle John's example of gratefully lifting up in prayer those who are part of our church family. May we suggest that you use your new church directory to pray for one person or one family every day. How do you pray for others? Jesus prayed that God would grant his disciples a sense of peace, grace, unity and protection. We, too, may ask God to provide those things for people on our prayer list. By praying for one another, God will continue to guide and strengthen us as a church family. Praying for each other will draw us closer to Jesus Christ and to one another. We also invite you to support and pray for our church officers, our staff, and our pastor.

In addition please keep the following precious people in your prayers:

- Pat** - a young man recovering from digestive tract surgery
- Lucy** - to make a good recovery from quadruple bypass surgery
- Donna** - a 14-year old who recently lost her mother
- Helen** - diagnosed with lung & liver cancer
- Sandy** - diagnosed with breast cancer
- Jeff** - deployed in Iraq

As we join together in prayer, may God bless us, and make us a blessing to others.



CHURCH SIGN PROJECT

For almost two years, Session has been on a quest to replace our old street sign with one that better suits our current Ministry needs. Pastor David had a vision for a sign that would pull people off Hope Road and get them to drive in. What he saw was an illuminated sign that would include a changeable message area, so that we would be able to advertise our outreach to the community. Elder Steven Buckley's task was to turn a vision into a plan. After several months of research, a supplier for our sign was selected. It is the Robson Corporation of Sarasota Florida. See their web site www.aqualitysign.com for information.

The session selected a design from their various options, and set aside \$10,000 from our undesignated investment funds for the project. Additional funding has also been received from the Gleaners and the Deacons. We now have permission from the Zoning and Building Department of Tinton Falls to finish the project and are waiting to get a delivery/installation date from Robson. The expected time frame for installation is by the end of June. If you're curious to know what our sign might look like, drive past the Methodist Church on Wyckoff Rd in Eatontown or the United Church of Christ on Hance Ave in Tinton Falls as they have similar sign to what we will have. A picture of our sign will be available in a few weeks. If you have questions or want more details contact Elder Steven Buckley 732-544-1131.

TEN THINGS YOU RARELY HEAR IN CHURCH

Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.

Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.

I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.

I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.

Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.

I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

Since we're all here, let's start the service early.

Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

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