



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

January 2007

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 wor-
ship, and

Inspire them to
serve God according
to their gifts



Pastor's Corner

Friends of Hope,
I hope this newsletter finds you well, and looking forward to the New Year.

Boy, this last year ended quite eventfully didn't it! A lot has happened here at our little church in these last couple months. Search Committees, Ordinations, Installations, volunteer groups for junk removal, charity gift donations, new deacons and elders elected, "Dinners at the Manse," Candle Light Services... whew!

I think the highlight though, for me at least, was getting to celebrate communion with you for the first time on Christmas Eve. There is something about the Grace that is expressed in that "meal" together that sums up what it means for us to be a faith family together, and for me to be your pastor.

You know that reminds me, for Christmas Robyn and I gave to each other the gift of taking a day and going into NY to see a Broadway show. We decided to see *Les Miserables*... by far my most favorite Musical. Now there is a story that teaches us about Grace.

One of my favorite scenes is one involving the lead character Jean Valjean, an escaped convict and a thief, and an Abbot of a chapel. Clearly down on his luck, Valjean is invited by the Abbot into his house and given food to eat and a place to stay. In response Valjean takes advantage of the Grace shown to him by taking the Abbot's silver in the middle of the night and running off with it. However, Valjean is caught. And upon being brought back to the chapel in chains, the Abbot does something amazing. He affirms the lie that Valjean had told to save himself. In fact, he tells the police, not only had the Abbot given Jean Valjean the silver currently in his possession, but Valjean had forgotten to take the silver candlesticks as well. Items of immense value. Vajejan was free to go. Free to go and serve God. **See page 2**

Pastor's Corner Continued

Candlesticks... Grace upon Grace.

Friends, this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who invites us in to dine with him regardless of our past. And even when we end up turning on him, he still lavishes love on us regardless of what we have done. It is my prayer that this next year would be a year in which we would explore the meaning of stories like this one. And where we would increasingly come to know and receive God's lavish Grace for us in Jesus Christ, and in turn show that Grace to others.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Pastor Andrew

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS:

January 9, 2007 - meeting in the John Calvin Room, 6pm

February 13, 2007 (tentative) - meeting in the John Calvin Room, 6pm

Special thanks to Carol Jeanne Turk and Ernest Watts for donating greens for our Advent Wreath making. Extra special thanks to Brenda Van Pelt for loaning us her tree top Angel for the finishing touch to our Christmas tree! It was a fun day of decorating and fellowship. The church looked beautiful for the holidays! Thank you everyone!

DID YOU KNOW??

Epiphany is a Christian feast celebrating the 'shining forth' or revelation of God to mankind in human form, in the person of Jesus Christ. The observance had its origins in the eastern Christian churches, and included the birth of Jesus Christ; the visit of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) who arrived in Bethlehem; and all of Jesus' childhood events, up to his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. The feast was initially based on (and viewed as a fulfillment of) the Jewish Feast of Lights. This was fixed on January 6.

REMINDER:

LENT will be upon us shortly. The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee is asking you to think about what your contribution can be to our annual Lenten Devotional booklet. It doesn't have to be long. Just a short testimony on how God has worked in your life or someone else's. Or maybe you can tell us what makes Jesus special to you. A scripture verse and prayer may accompany your testimony, otherwise one can be provided for you. The cutoff for submissions is Feb 11. Please forward your submissions by email to the church at hopepresbyterianchurch@msn.com or by putting them in Gwynne's cubby downstairs.

The Women's Book Club Is Back

Girl meets God: a Memoir by Lauren Winner explores the quirky path of a young woman raised in a home where the Christmas tree sat next to the menorah. As her spiritual journey unfolds, she first embraces Orthodox Judaism, and then several years later is led to Christianity through a popular novel. A graduate of Columbia and Cambridge Universities, Lauren astonished her friends with this second conversion. Skeptical, they wondered if it “would stick”, or what was coming next? Winner shares “the long grind” after she becomes a Christian, how she adjusts in some respects, but has difficulty letting go of the prayers, vocabulary, and rhythms of her former faith. As she examines the rituals and disciplines of Judaism and Christianity, the reader is led to do the same. Winner shares her own shortcomings as she grows in her Christian faith and grapples with traditional and contemporary issues in her Christian walk.

This paperback can be obtained through Barnes & Noble on-line or Amazon.com. Read the reviews there and you'll see how this book should spark an evening of lively discussion. We'll all read the book first on our own and gather TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 7:30 at the church for our Book Club Meeting. Questions about getting a book or participation? See, email, or call Kathy Heller. kathylou4@comcast.net 732-542-1283

Souper Bowl of Caring

No, it's not a spelling error! We're talking about Sunday morning, February 4, when our church school students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will be collecting a special offering in soup pots for the nationwide youth campaign to stamp out hunger. As in the past, Hope Church School will donate our funds to the Monmouth-Ocean Food Bank right here in Neptune. So before you settle down to watch that Super Bowl Sunday evening, please participate in ours Sunday morning.

The Clerk's Communiqué

(Notes from the Stated Session meeting of December 19, 2006)

Bible Study: The session was led in a bible study by Rev. Tibert centering on Acts 6:1-7 the choosing of the seven. Theme: Proclaim the Word by the leading of the Holy Spirit; Ministry should never be an “I” Ministry, but a team Ministry; as a result the Word will be spread and numbers increased.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Hope Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday January 28, 2006, snow date February 4th. All reports for the booklet are to be submitted to the clerk in an electronic form no later than January 14th.

The Clerk's Communiqué continues on page 4

Monmouth Presbytery: Commissioner Betsy Fee reported on the wonderful examination of our new pastor concerning his Statement of Faith at the meeting of Presbytery on November 28. By a positive vote of the Presbytery, Andrew was made a member of Monmouth Presbytery that night and plans for his Ordination & Installation service for December 3, 2006 were approved.

2007 Church Budget:

Administration	\$ 90,000.00
Christian Education	\$ 500.00
Deacons	\$ 0.00
Property	\$ 7,200.00
Worship	\$ 1,950.00
Presbytery	\$ 2,000.00
Stewardship	\$ 100.00
Outreach	\$ 1,050.00
Missions	\$ 2,000.00
Taxes	\$ 12,000.00
Utilities	\$13,000.00
Denominational Per capita apportionment	\$3,978.00
Mortgage	\$33,095.00
Total Operating Budget	\$ 166,873.00

Deacons: New officers for 2007 were elected: Danny Mullan, Moderator; Stephanie Demchok and Bill Heller, Secretaries.

Administration: Still working on getting the forms submitted to get Rev. Tibert in the medical & pension plan with a start date of December 1, 2006. The committee is looking into a possible four year grant of \$2,500 a year that Rev. Tibert might be eligible for to reduce his debt for his seminary education.

Christian Education: There has been a sustained increase in Church School attendance in the range of 18-24 students. Due to the new Church School members, a second Bible presentation Sunday will be held in early 2007.

Membership Care & Nurture: The reinstatement of Elders serving Communion to shut-ins was suggested.

Mission Outreach: The “Life Line Screening” organization will use the John Calvin room to hold screenings for detection of problems to prevent strokes on February 12, 2006 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm with no cost to us except for the use of the room but a fee is charged to the users of the service.

The Clerk’s Communiqué continues on page 5

We will use the remaining \$100.00 in the mission budget as a gift to the Lakewood Outreach Ministry Church via its pastor Rev. Steve Brigham. Rev. Brigham provides propane tanks for the homeless living in the woods in Lakewood and Toms River area. These folks use propane heaters as their only source of heat they have in the tents live in. Rev. Brigham drives a blue school bus with the words "God is Love" across the front above the windshield. The bus is equipped so that the people can take showers; wash their clothes and cook if they want when he parks close to them. He also sees that they have clothing and food. Session approved the committee's recommendation that the congregation be given an opportunity to donate to this worthy cause.

Property & Insurance: The locks at the manse will be changed in early 2007. A volunteer is needed who will be responsible for the purchase and stocking of cleaning supplies for sextons. It was decided to purchase a new vacuum, because the one we have works poorly, requiring most sextons to bring their own. An elder wishes to fund this project as a gift knowing the cost could be several hundred dollars.

Worship: The Ordination and Installation service for Rev. Tibert went very well - a big thank you to the Deacons for setting up and cleaning up. A special thanks to Rev. Bill Tibert (Andrew's father) for assisting in the morning service by celebrating communion.

Stewardship / Finance: The One Great Hour of Sharing materials have been ordered. A suggestion on distributing additional pledge cards in an up coming Sunday bulletin was suggested and will be done.

Pastor: Pastor Tibert went over the plans for late January session retreat for the purpose of planning, visioning and review of the mission study done in 2006. Pastor Andrew will study what types of security systems are in the market place for the manse.

Parish Assistant & Director of Music: It was reported that Carl will place the cables for the praise team under the chancel floor at a cost of about \$400.00. An elder has stepped forward and wishes to fund this project as a gift.