



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



# NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

April 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 worship, and

**Inspire** them to serve God according to their gifts



### To the Members and Friends of Hope Church, from Rev. Tibert

It is my pleasure in this month's newsletter to introduce to you seven new additions to the Hope church family. On March 11, the session officially received Fred Bauch, Adam Hayek, Margaret Light, John Lisle, Judy & Tim McGuire, and last but not least Robyn Tibert as members of Hope Presbyterian Church.

I, for one, am very excited about this new class. Not only are they the first class of new members since my coming to Hope... but having spent some time together over the last two weeks, and having gotten to glimpse a bit of each personality, I am excited to see how God will use each to bless our congregation going forward.

One of the things we talked about during the new members class is that one aspect of becoming a new member is the expectation that each member serve in a ministry in some way. This comes from the belief that each of us has been given a gift in order that all would be blessed. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Cor. 12:7).

This understanding of the giftedness of each individual member for the sake of the common good has stimulated a notable shift in the way we think about the church. What we are seeing is a shift from thinking of the church's ministry as being pastor-focused, to the church's ministry being people-focused. It's what the Reformers called the "priesthood of all believers" (Steven Buckley is so proud of me right now).

Another way of understanding this idea is that instead of seeing the pastor as performing a solo act on a theater stage while the church members sit in the audience, now we are coming to see that we are all on the stage together. Each believer is a necessary part of the drama that God is producing. In the ministry of the church, everyone has a part to play.

This is why I have encouraged our new members to find a ministry, big or small – it could be serving on the praise band, ushering, teaching Sunday school, cleaning the church as a sexton, being involved on a committee

and give themselves to it. As members of this body they, and the specific gifts they represent, are vital to our continued growth as a community of faith.

This is also why I am going to encourage you to find a ministry that fits your gifts and to serve in that ministry. Perhaps it has been a while and you don't know where to start. Perhaps you have never felt that you had much to give. Perhaps you have never thought much about it, or that investing yourself in this way wasn't very convenient at the time. Perhaps you have been in a place where you just needed to receive a little. These reasons are all understandable.

But there comes a time when God begins to call us to give something of ourselves back. All that is left is for us to respond. I believe that each one of us has something special to give, something that is unique to us alone. Hope church needs that something.

**Our Newest Members:** Hope Church is happy and blessed to welcome seven new members, many of whom are already actively involved in the ministry of the church:

**Fred Bauch** lives in Eatontown with his wife Kathy. He is a teacher and coach at Middletown North High School. Fred has been attending Hope for a while and decided to "finally take the plunge."

**Adam Hayek** lives in Eatontown with his wife Rachel, who has been a member of Hope for many years. He is the son-in-law of Hope Elders Dave and Mary Harris. Adam works in his father's construction business and can be seen lending his rich tenor to the Praise Team on Sunday mornings.

**Margaret Light**, daughter of Hope Elder Nancy Oliviero, and she lives in Brick. She has been helping with the younger children in Sunday School.

**John Lisle** lives in Tinton Falls with his wife Susan and comes to Hope by letter of transfer from the First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank. He is in the construction business and has benefited the church with his professional skills numerous times, most recently in painting the interior of the manse.

**Tim and Judy McGuire** reside in Wayside with their daughter Emily. Tim is a medical educator and Judy is a nurse. They came to Hope because of Rev. Cotton and stayed because they liked Rev. Tibert. Judy will be teaching in the Sunday School.

**Robyn Tibert**, wife of our pastor, is joining Hope as an affiliate member. She is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (where she met her husband) and is pursuing a master's degree in social work at Rutgers. Robyn plays bass guitar for the Praise Team and helps lead the Wednesday night Lenten study on prayer.

### **Holy Week Worship At Hope:**

Passion Week is almost upon us! All are invited to first attend our Palm Sunday service on 1 April at 9:30 a.m. when we will celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Passion Week proceeds, we will gather on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for a special communion service, just as Jesus gathered with his disciples for a Passover feast which we refer to as the Last

Supper. On Good Friday, the day that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ at Calvary, we again invite you to the church for a prayer vigil in the sanctuary between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Whether you can come for the whole time or just a few moments, come and immerse yourself in prayer during this time. Elders and Deacons will be available to pray with you if desired. On Easter Sunday, 8 April, come and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with us at 9:30 a.m.! It will be a joyous celebration!

### **Palm Sunday and Easter Babysitting**

Parents and grandparents, this year we are able to provide expert child care for our youngest worshippers during Palm Sunday and Easter Services. Toddlers may, of course, attend church school, but this year we will have Jen Van Bavel and Margaret Light downstairs with baby seats, pack-and-plays, and tender hearts to watch over the littlest ones. Pack up those diaper bags and take advantage of this loving care!

### **A Deacon Request**

The 'giving tree' is again decorated beautifully and on display in the Narthex. For this Easter, the tree is adorned with eggs, and on each egg is a requested item so that we can continue to provide for our families in need. Thanks to your generosity and love, we are able to help 13 families! Please help us continue to provide by taking an egg (or two), purchasing the item(s) and returning them on April 1st. The Deacons will distribute the dinner ingredients on April 1st. Let's continue to share God's love by giving to others this Easter

### **We're Casting Our Nets**

Church School kids and parents, it's time to return the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks. We will be collecting them in a big net on Palm Sunday and Easter. We need to haul those fish in so we can help our neighbors as the Bible commands us to do. If you need a fish bank, please see a church school teacher.

### **Choir Chime Fundraiser a Success!**

On February 24th a Pearl Party Fundraiser was held to raise the additional amount needed to purchase Choir Chimes in memory of Mary Moran. We exceeded the amount needed and our profits were \$240.00. Any additional monies left over will be used for our music ministry here at Hope. The Choir Chimes will be ordered shortly. Thank you everyone who contributed to make this a successful event. It was an exciting afternoon, one that we hope to repeat again soon. So keep on the lookout for another Pearl Party in the fall of 2007!

### **SOUP KITCHEN**

We had 14 people who showed up to work at the soup kitchen in Asbury Park on February 28th. Those of us in the early shift (2:00 - 4:30 PM) chopped onions and peppers, helped to get the turkeys, vegetables and rice cooking, buttered bread and wrapped other loaves of bread and bagels for the next day's give-aways at their food pantry. Oh, yes, Bill had charge of cutting up all the desserts. The second shift (4:30-7:00PM) served and helped to clean-up, and mingled with the diners. It was a fun and gratifying time for all of us, and we are looking forward to going back again this month.

Mission Committee

## **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

Our turn at helping to clean up a section of Wyckoff Road is next Sunday, March 25th. That's 1:00PM in the Church parking lot, and the county rep WILL be here with the reflector vests, pickers and bags. He promised me he would be here!!! So, please sign up on the sign-up pad in the Narthex, and help out in this mission work.

Mission Committee

## **Scholarships for Camp Johnsonburg**

Once again this year, the Deacons will be providing partial scholarships of \$100 to all youth from Hope Presbyterian Church who attend Camp Johnsonburg. Profit from our sale of Easter Candy will be used to supply these scholarships. Brochures including registration forms are available in the Narthex. If you are planning on registering family members for Camp Johnsonburg this summer, please see Bill Heller so that the Deacons can make plans to provide you with the partial scholarship.

## **Pancake Breakfast**

The Deacons are sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 24th from 8 AM – 12 Noon. We are inviting everyone from the Church to join us and would like you to invite your family and friends as well. There will be all the pancakes and other breakfast foods you can eat, so come and enjoy. Please try to purchase your tickets in advance. If you do, you will receive a wonderful Children's DVD, "Steve Light's StoryTime", all about LoLo and NoNo and their friends. Also, those who purchase one or more of our candy bunnies at the breakfast will be eligible to win tickets to Great Adventure. So join us for fun, food and fellowship - March 24th – come early and stay late.

All proceeds will go to the Deacons' funds. Thank you for your support.

The Deacons

## **SPECIAL BOOK EVENING**

Did you know that we have an author-in-residence in our midst? It's true!

Our next Book Night on Tuesday, May 1st, at 7PM, will feature Gwynne Bounds Mahns discussing her book, Behind Enemy Lines. It is her personal account of 25 years of ministry and missionary work behind the Iron Curtain, where Christians were regarded as enemies of the state.

This book is out of print, but we have several copies available for circulation. Please see either Kathy Heller or Kelly Colao if you would like to borrow a copy to read prior to our evening together.

Come hear Gwynne share observations and accounts of her truly heroic experiences spreading the Gospel to those so hungry to hear the Good News! Believe me when I tell you, some of what Gwynne will share will be incredible and quite unbelievable: the Lord was (and is!) at work in a mighty way! To God be the glory!

You won't want to miss this special evening of fellowship with a dessert buffet. All junior high age and above are invited, and babysitting is available. (Please let us know if you need this service.) Please sign up in the Narthex. See you at church the evening of May 1st! And bring a friend!

### **The Clerk's Communiqué**

(Notes from the Session meetings of January 17, February 20, and March 11, 2007)

**Bible Study:** At January's meeting, we were led in a Bible study by Rev. Tibert centering on I Corinthians 1:26-31 "Consider Your Calling". Some comments were: by His Grace you are in Christ Jesus; let him who boasts, boast in the Lord; we are not wise by human standards. In February, the study was based on I Thessalonians 2:1-12 using as a lens for our study "What do these verses say about Leadership?" Some comments were: we lead, not for our gain, but for the benefit of the community; we speak not for man, but for God; we must live a life worthy of our calling, a life of integrity; our calling directs our life and God calls us first out of his own choosing.

**Deacons:** The Pastor mentioned his thoughts on better integration of the Deacons' work with the parallel committees on Session. In 2007, the Deacons will not only prepare the elements for Communion Services, but also schedule the servers. The Deacons will provide 13 families with Easter Food Baskets. Fellowship activities being planned or considered include a Pancake Breakfast, Easter Candy sale, Car Wash, Pumpkinfest and a Blue Claws base ball fund raiser.

**Administration:** Susan Penrose is working on a plan with the Board of Pensions that will enable Pastor Andrew & Robyn to get dental coverage with pre-tax funds at no cost to Hope Church. It was reported by elder Marilyn Hicken that the committee has been meeting to set goals for the year and to address the personnel changes that Gwynne Mahns' retirement in May will require. At this time, the committee believes it will be necessary to hire a musical director and an administrative assistant to cover most of the functions Gwynne currently performs.

**Christian Education:** Souper Bowl of Caring was celebrated on February 4th raising \$258 and Bring Your Own Bible to Church Day was February 11th. Due to a sustained increase in Church School attendance, a new leadership team was organized and introduced in February. As a fitting tribute to Gwynne before she retires, the book she wrote about her missionary activities in Eastern Europe, "Behind Enemy Lines", will be the source of a study in the April / May time frame.

**Membership Care & Nurture:** Elder Harris reported that the year started strongly under the leadership of our new pastor. A new Adult membership class was scheduled for the first two Sundays in March. A review of our current membership has identified about seven people who have not been active for an extended period of time and therefore might be moved to the inactive list. Each person is being contacted to determine their wishes, and to inquire about the reasons for their absence.

**Mission Outreach:** We received \$597 and an additional \$100 from the Gleaners for the Propane project in Lakewood. The possibility of work at a Soup Kitchen was discussed in January and two months later it is now a reality. We are working with the First United Methodist Church

in Asbury Park on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Marilyn Hicken reported that the Blanket collection went very well and they were delivered to the Salvation Army. The “Life Line Screening” on February 12, for the detection of problems to prevent strokes, went very well with 45 participants.

**Property & Insurance:** The interior of the Manse has been painted. The need to add air conditioning will be considered. If you’re gifted as a “do-it-yourself” person, please contact Elder Bob Patterson, chair of this committee. A letter, written by Steven Buckley, has been sent to the WHTG Radio Station c/o Press Communication, LCC, inquiring as to their understanding between themselves, the Boro’ of Tinton Falls and Hope Presbyterian Church concerning ownership of Lot 11.01, which is in front of our church.

**Worship:** The Lenten devotionals are now being used each week as bulletin inserts and are prepared by Carol-Jeanne Turk. The Ash Wednesday Service was a memorable worship experience. Plans are well under way for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. A question was asked recently as to why we use many Bible Translations in spite of the fact that only the NIV is found in our pews. We want everyone to know that the use of different translations is thought-provoking and informative. The goal is to expand different encounters with the Bible. Elder Betsy Fee is starting to work on the possibility of two music concerts.

**Stewardship / Finance:** Due to the many new areas of work being performed by the committee, Rev. Tibert will lead the group during the transition. The 2007 budget is being fully reviewed for completeness. The concern of educating the congregation on our budget deficit is a high priority of the committee.

**Nominating:** No specific activity reported for January & February. The committee has decided not to proceed in trying to find a suitable candidate to fill the open elder position at this time. Unless something unexpected happens, this position, and any others that might come up during the year, will be filled at the regular meeting of the Congregation in October.

**Pastor:** Andrew requested that each elder obtain a copy of the book “Family Based Youth Ministry”, written by Mark DeVires published by Intervarsity Press and read it for future discussion. Andrew pointed out that our youth program for Middle School and High School is almost non existent and we need to assist Kathy Heller and the Christian Education folks to improve this situation.

**Parish Assistant & Director of Music:** As everyone should know by now, at their staff meeting on January 2nd, Gwynne told our pastor that after prayer and waiting on the Lord, she had decided that the time has come to retire from Hope Church. Gwynne plans on publishing the new church directory on Sunday March 25th as soon as the current membership class is complete and after the March session meeting. Gwynne stated that group leaders need to personally take responsibility to keep the event calendar on the wall down stairs up to date.