

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY

# NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

October 2007

Edited by  
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Published by  
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## **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 found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

**Invite** them to become part of the family of God

**Instruct** them in the scriptures, God's word to us

**Involve** them in the ministry of the church, according to their gifts

**Inspire** them to go into the world, making disciples of others

## **THE PASTOR'S COLUMN**

Dear Family and Friends of Hope Church,

One of the questions I have been asking myself a lot as a young pastor is, how do I communicate the story of the Bible to others? When I read the bible... how do I make sense of it in today's world? What are the important themes that run throughout? What are the connections that need to be made? How do I find my own life reflected in these stories? And how do I communicate this story to other people effectively? These are the things that keep me up at night! Can you believe it?

But I am willing to bet that you ask at least some of these questions yourself as well. What's more, I am willing to bet that each of you thinks to yourself, "Gosh, I wish I knew more of the bible." Or, "I want share the love of Jesus with others, I just don't know where to start." How many times have you picked up the Bible with intentions to apply yourself to reading its pages, only to flounder somewhere in Genesis? Or even more likely, you tell yourself that you will start tomorrow only to see tomorrow come and go with nothing begun. Am I right?

Believe me, I am with you. It's hard to read the bible; especially when you don't know where to begin. It's a difficult book to navigate... part history, poetry, wisdom sayings, prophesy, and even letters to long dead people.

What's more, it's a weird book... full of strange practices, names of old places, miracles that you just don't see happening anymore, and confusing teachings. The bible is full of all sorts of people... such as prophets, prostitutes, and generals. It tells the stories of famines, wars, virgin births (well, really only one), and resurrections. It's a hard book to know and understand.

And yet, as Christians, we believe the story that is contained within the Bible... the story of God's overcoming love for a people and a world that has so often turned from him and gone their own way... is the foundational story that makes sense of all reality. What's more, as Christians, we believe that others desperately need to here the Good News of this story. Therefore, as Christians, we need to know this story (and I mean really know it) ourselves.

As your pastor I am committed to helping you know this Bible, and the foundational story that is contained within it.

So I'm writing you in this month's newsletter to let you know of two opportunities that are available to you that will go a long way towards helping you know the story of the bible that much better. The first is that starting Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, and lasting all the way through Christmas, we will be beginning a new sermon series called "A Journey Through The Bible." In it we will explore the central story of how from the beginning God has acted throughout history to redeem a broken and rebellious creation. Believe me; you won't want to miss even one of these Sundays.

Partnered with that, also beginning Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering a bible study class at 6:30pm Sunday evenings, titled "Bible 101." This class is intended to be a 7 week entry level course on the bible, designed to equip you with all the tools necessary to be able to navigate this most difficult yet rewarding of books. It is my hope that you will take full advantage of both opportunities over the coming season.

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

## Stewardship

SAVE THE DATE

Stewardship-Fellowship-Fun  
Join us for a Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction  
Saturday, November 3, 2007  
6:30pm  
Hope Church – John Calvin Room  
Adults \$12.00  
Children under 6 FREE  
Children 7-12 \$6.00  
Senior Citizens \$6.00  
Invite your friends

With Fall in full swing and our Stewardship drive behind us, let us be mindful that stewardship continues on throughout the year. It isn't all about giving money each week; it's also about our actions. We can easily "talk the talk"; it's harder to "walk the walk".

Generous God,

I give thanks to you for the gifts you have given me -

My life, my family, my friends - time, talents, and material possessions.

All that I have comes from you.

Help me to remember this and rejoice in your goodness.

Walk with me, my God.

Help me on my spiritual journey, so that I may

Constantly renew my relationship with you.

Renew in me your Spirit.

Give me the strength and courage

To become a better follower of Jesus, to be a disciple.

Help me hear the call to "Come, Follow Me."

I give glory to you, my God, as I make stewardship a way of life.

Amen.

The 2007 Hope Presbyterian Church Spaghetti Dinner wishes to announce our new and exciting plans for our dinner with a Silent Auction, scheduled for Saturday, November 3, 2007 at Hope Church 1189 Hope Rd, Tinton Falls, NJ. Our HOPE is to get as many friends of Hope to attend and get some wonderful Silent Auction items!

***We need your help!!!***

2007 has certainly brought both new *joys* and new *challenges* to Hope Church and we want to offer you the opportunity to be part of the our success in reaching the most people with the best message –reinforcing our message that Jesus Christ has enduring love. We are requesting from you, a potential partner in this worthy cause, a donation of an auction item or a monetary contribution to help make this fundraising event a success.

All of the funds raised from the Silent Auction will go directly to Hope Church. Your donation is tax deductible and will be acknowledged in our auction program guide that will be distributed to the guests. Your donation can be mailed to Hope Church (with a solicitation form), or we would be happy to arrange for a pick up at your convenience. In the past, popular silent auction items included sports tickets, gift certificates for restaurants, bars and services, and pre-assembled baskets of books, wine and cheese. If you have any questions, you may contact our event coordinator Nancy Oliviero via email at [nancy.oliviero@satotravel.com](mailto:nancy.oliviero@satotravel.com) or by phone at (732) 571-3378.

Your generosity and support of Hope Church remains a permanent source of strength for the countless families we serve. On behalf of the members and families of Hope Church, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Stewardship Committee

# Education

## **YOUTH MINISTRY: A NEW LOOK**

Our Youth Ministry here at Hope is heading in a new direction from the traditional Sunday evening teen gathering. Why this new look? Well, last spring the Session members read Family-Based Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries at Rev. Andrew Tibert's suggestion in order to explore new ways of looking at ministry for our youth here at Hope. We wanted to provide not only fellowship, but also the opportunity for our young people to mature in their faith and move toward long-term discipleship. The Session has chosen to develop a program that moves away from the traditional and focuses instead on the encouragement of inter-generational friendships between the youth and adult members of our congregation. By mentoring our youth as they become engaged in Hope's ministry, we believe they will best be prepared to let their "lights shine" as they mature in their faith journeys.

With a small, but growing number of youth at Hope Church, we are encouraged that they are so integrated into our church life as musicians with the Praise Team and aides in church school. It is our belief that our extended church family is a community of believers who can affirm and encourage growth toward Christian maturity. Yes, our Youth will meet occasionally for fellowship opportunities with the Tiberts and Hayeks, but our main focus now is to blend them into the many opportunities for service and growth at Hope Church.

### **What we need now is for everyone to work together:**

Adults to include teens in our various church activities

Adults to offer guidance to teens with similar interests and talents to their own

Parents to encourage their teens to participate in Bible studies, mission activities, and service opportunities at Hope

Teens to come forward and join in the many opportunities for service and growth

**Please pray for this new Youth direction and think about ways that you can participate.**

## **BIBLE 101**

The more we learn, the more we realize how much more we have to learn.

Join us as we go back to basics! We will be meeting **downstairs** in the John Calvin Room on **Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM, beginning on 10/14 thru 11/25**. You don't need any prior Bible knowledge – only an interest and an appetite for God's Word. We will each need to purchase a textbook for about \$10-12, and there will be a bit of homework (Andrew has promised “not a lot”!) This class will be taught by Pastor Andrew with help from Marilyn Hicken (did you know she has been to seminary too?)

We know from our past gatherings that we all learn from each other, no matter how much formal Bible training we have had. The Lord can speak through each of us. So plan to join the fun and exercise your brain cells with us. It promises to be an awesome time, and we are guaranteed to learn a lot in the process. Everyone is welcome!

## **Membership**

### Notes From Membership Care and Nurture

The first of our two new members sessions met Sunday, September 23 with four prospective new members. The second meeting will be Sunday, September 30 with the entire Session attending. Next month's newsletter will introduce you to the newest members of Hope.

Coming soon - a new church pictorial directory. The committee is meeting with Olan Mills, the company that produced our last directory in 1998. This is done at no cost to the church - all you need do is make an appointment and show up to have your family's picture taken. Further details will be available shortly.

## Hope Music Department

Bell choir rehearsals have begun again and we are glad to welcome Judy McGuire and Becky Flynn to the ensemble. Judy has previous bell choir experience and Becky has been a faithful substitute for several years. We are blessed to have them aboard. We are excited about some of the new music we have. Make sure you don't miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in October when we will premiere a wonderful new arrangement of "They'll Know That We Are Christians"! On Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> we will be dedicating our new chimes. The bell choir has been raising money for some time and we finally had enough to purchase the chimes last month. They will be dedicated to the memory of Mary Moran. Mary was a member of the Hope bell choir during the 2004 season that passed away unexpectedly. She is missed by all of her friends at Hope and we believe the chimes are a nice tribute to her memory.

Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have the choir singing regularly during the year but a few new members would surely go a long way towards helping us to that goal. (That was a shameless plug). We have a beautiful new arrangement of the David Meese Christmas song "One Small Child" which will be done with bell choir and vocal choir.

The praise team is asking for your prayers for our guitar player Fred Morris. Fred is struggling with some physical issues that make it difficult for him to play guitar. He missed several weeks during the summer and is out again now. Fred adds a LOT to the praise team, both with the wonderful gift of his talent and with his effervescent personality.

In His Service,

Carl Fritsche

## **The Clerk's Communiqué** **June – September Meetings of Session**

**Deacons:** For July 4<sup>th</sup> we had our food outreach to several families. We had a great trip to the Blue Claws game on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The annual church picnic was held on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> along with our friends in the Korean Congregation. The Pumpkin Fest is on for September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel and Administration:** As June started we were still holding interviews for our Keyboard player position. As you all know by now we were able to hire Brian Krajcik as our Assistant Music Director reporting to Carl Fritsche. In order to make this work the Praise team had to agree to move its Thursday rehearsals to Friday night in order to allow Brian to drive back from college.

**Christian Education:** During the summer a round table discussion entitled “Deep but not Boring” on theological subjects was held following Sunday worship with good attendance. The summer movie night was held showing “Akeelah and the Bee”. Plans are under way for the Adult “Bible 101” class starting in October. There was a need for summer nursery caregivers that was very hard to fill. In the fall youth Sunday school will be expanded to three classes and we will extend these classes through eight grade. A youth group picnic was held June 10<sup>th</sup> after church at the manse with the Tibert's and Hayek's in charge.

**The Membership Care and Nurture Committee:** Church membership now stands at 116. A membership class is currently underway which concludes on September 30<sup>th</sup>. On July 17<sup>th</sup> and at the request of Gwynne Mahns her name was removed, with regret but understanding, from our active membership. With Elisabeth Buckley leaving in the fall to attend college full time a new editor was needed for the church news letter. The committee was happy to inform us that Erica Andresen has taken over that ministry. Over the summer I sadly have to report that two very long time members of our church have died, Fred Moag and Herb Anthony. Both of these gentleman have been with us since the 1950's. The committee is looking into the possibility of a new Photo Church Directory.

**Property & Insurance:** Barbara Patterson has informed us that she must step down as our church gardener so we are looking for a new person that loves gardening. If you have skills concerning property maintenance or insurance please contact Bob Patterson.



**Mission / Outreach:** The church received \$370.00 for Blanket Sunday. Several \$100.00 checks were issued for the local mission projects that we support. A general mission budget for 2008 was approved at \$ 1,500.00. In recent years the figure was \$2,000 but we needed to free up \$500.00 that the pastor used for this falls Stewardship Challenge. What ever blessing Hope Church receives from planting that \$500 we will add it back to the mission budget for 2008. The next Wyckoff Road clean up day is Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>. The mitten Tree program will be November 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. The Propane mission project will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Soup kitchen participation continues the last Wednesday of each month. We are still waiting for Coastal Habitat for Humanity to notify us that Wall Twp. Has given its approval to start work.

**Worship:** A Saturday afternoon concert with Southern Gospel singing personality Allison Durham Speer occurred on August 4<sup>th</sup> with about 50 people in attendance. The Bell Choir has been able to finally purchase their own set of hand chimes which will be dedicated on Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>. We sincerely thank Susan Penrose for so graciously loaning us her set for much more than a year.

**Stewardship / Finance:** The committee continued over the summer to watch our income cash flow very carefully and to monitor the use of our dwindling investment monies to cover the shortfall between our income and expenditures that continues.

At the September session meeting it was agreed to inform the congregation that the Elders have set as a goal for themselves to increase their current level of giving by at least 10% going into 2008 and that before the end of 2007 we would also contribute an additional amount of money equal to what we gave this year on a monthly basis to help close this years budget shortfall. Elder Gail McDonald reported this to the congregation at the Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> Worship service.

A wonderful Stewardship month at each Worship service during September is just about to conclude. If you have not been with us each and every week you have really missed something that was a blessing.

**Nominating:** There was a Congregational meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the purpose of filling two open positions on the Deacons. Margot Eble & Mike Tursi were elected. The committee is now working on a slate of nominees to present at October 28<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting.

**General Session:** We received a very nice thank you note from Gwynne Mahns concerning how “fabulous” the party held for her retirement was. Due to health concerns Ceil Norman has decided to resign as an elder on session.