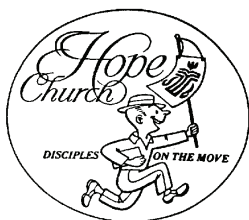


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

November 2007

Edited by
Erica Andresen
Published by
Steven Buckley

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,

I thought I'd share with you a quote that came my way from a friend of mine who was reflecting on what we as Christians could and should believe about scripture...

"That by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." I don't know about you, but I cling to the hope that the Scriptures give me in days like these. Not only because of the fact that God is and that he loves this desperate world, but because of the way those Scriptures were written and have come to us. It's the story of living, sweating, rejoicing, struggling, dying men and women just like you, just like me. And the story tells of a God not apart from their daily, ordinary lives, but smack in the middle of them. So it's my story, too. And your story. Rejoice in it. Give thanks and sing. For the hope is not fanciful or ephemeral; it is rooted in a God who enters into the dirt and dust and joys of life precisely where you are now. Just like a child in the dust and dirt and joy of a stable.

-Edmund Steimle, From Death to Birth

Here at Hope we are currently spending substantial time and energy in committing ourselves, through our latest Sermon series and our Sunday night bible study, to learning about the story of the Bible. Why are we doing this? I think this quote sums it up...

That through engaging in the study of this "living" book, a book so concerned with the stuff of life, we might truly have HOPE.

Grace and Peace to you
Andrew

Stewardship

What is Per Capita??

Perhaps one of the most confusing aspects of how the Presbyterian Church functions is "per-capita". Each year our church encourages its members to pay their per-capita apportionment. Why do we do this? Where does this money go?

One of the great strengths of our denomination is its connectionism. We who worship at Hope Presbyterian Church are tied to the larger church in ministry. One concrete form of that connection is through our per-capita. Every Presbyterian Church in the country is required to pay a certain amount for each active member on its rolls. This money goes to support the work and ministry of our church throughout the country. Each governing body above the Session has staff members and expenses that support the work of the church. Unlike pastors, these individuals have no congregation to support their ministry. Although their ministry may not be as "glamorous" as missionary work in South America, they are essential to the life of the Presbyterian Church. These are the people who prepare the curriculum that our children use, the offering materials that we receive, and countless other resources.

For the year 2007, our per-capita apportionment is \$30.84 which is split for the work of the Presbytery of Monmouth and our General Assembly.

Many people view per-capita as their "membership dues" to the church. **This is not true.** The church is not like a fraternal or service organization that will dismiss their members for unpaid dues. Yes, the church is required to pay its per-capita to the large church.

Many congregations encourage their members to help by inviting them to pay their own per-capita along with their regular giving. If members of the church are unwilling or unable to pay, then the church will use other funds to complete its per-capita commitments. At Hope, this means dipping into more of our savings, which as you know is very limited.

Consider prayerfully that per-capita is not dues to be paid to the church, but rather a form of mission giving to the larger work of the Presbyterian Church.

Pledges for 2008

During September, Pastor Andrew focused on many aspects of Christian Stewardship. The month ended with Loyalty Sunday where we pledged our faith gifts for 2008.

The good news is we have received 41 pledges for the Operating account totaling \$61,112.00 and 28 pledges for the Building Fund (Honoring our Debt) totaling \$19,400.00. Compared to last year, we are short over \$7000.00 in pledges for the Operating account and short \$1600.00 in our Building Fund.

Yes, this is a bit disheartening. Essentially this means we will be depleting more of our savings next year to pay bills. Our savings account took a big hit this year and at the rate we are going, it will be depleted by June of next year. This also means that there will be budget cuts in all areas of the church should we fall short of what we need to cover for next year.

The Building Fund is used for our mortgage payment which is \$2765.70 per month. Annually that means we need to pay \$33,188.40. So if pledges are at \$19,400.00 now, that means there is a shortage of \$13,788.40. This year alone, we have not always met our monthly payment and have had to take from savings to cover it, even with the Korean Congregations generous monthly gift. If we were able to meet the monthly mortgage payment each month, we would be able to use what the Korean Congregation donates to us (\$1000.00 per month) for something extra. The Building fund is a monthly donation (blue envelopes). Please prayerfully consider this when making your pledge for next year.

Please prayerfully consider what God has given you and remember that Hope's mission in the community is crucial. God gives us so much. Let us honor Him in 2008 with all we can faithfully and wholeheartedly give back, to glorify Him!

November Stewardship Prayer

Father, Creator, everything on earth is yours. We have nothing that can make you richer, for it all comes from you in the first place. But what we have, we bring: the acknowledgment that we live thanks to you and that without you we have nothing and can do nothing. Father, Redeemer, everything on earth is doubly yours. Though it belonged to you in the first place, men treated it as theirs, refusing to recognize your rights. But you sent your Son to claim what ought never to have been denied you; and he paid the world's ransom with his life. Amen

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

Dear Members and Friends

The Stewardship / Finance committee has asked to send to everyone two documents concerning November 3, 2007 Pasta Dinner. The dinner is being run under the leadership of Nancy Oliviero. The committee wants everyone to help them find possible donors for the silent auction that will be held in conjunction with the dinner. Make as many copies of these forms as you wish. If you are not able to make copies yourself contact Steven Buckley, Church Administrator, to make them for you.

If you have all ready been contacted by the committee and are working the streets they thank you in advance.

Steven Buckley
HPC Administrator

The 2007 Hope Presbyterian Church Pasta 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 (with the enclosed Solicitation Form) to Hope Church, 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 or by phone at (732) 571-3378.

Pasta Dinner November 3, 2007 Silent Auction Solicitation Form

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOSING INFORMATION:

Date: _____

Company/Merchant/Vendor (please be sure to include name, address, and contact person): _____

Description of the Item/Service Donated: _____

Dollar Value of Item Donated: _____

Monetary Donation: \$ _____

Solicited by: _____

Other information _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DONATED ITEM TO:

Attention: Nancy Oliviero, Pasta Dinner Chairwoman
Hope Presbyterian Church
1189 Hope Road
Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07724
Phone 732-571-3378
Fax 732-571-6712

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Logged Date: _____ Category: _____

Basket # _____ Basket Name: _____

Thank you letter completed _____

HOPE RECIEVES 7 NEW MEMBERS

The members of Hope Church swelled by seven after new members were received by the Session at meetings on September 30 and October 17. The new members were presented to the congregation at the morning worship service on October 21. New members are:

Paul and Alison Baker began coming to Hope when **Alison's** father David Cotton was pastor here and kept coming because this "became church home." They live in Point Pleasant. **Paul**, who recently earned his master's degree in education, teaches second grade at Land'o Pines School in Howell. He has often used his talents as a guitar player in our worship services. **Allison**, a former teacher, is a stay at home mom with their sons Thomas,5 and Luke 2 1/2. A third son is due to arrive in December.

Jason Evans and Jolie Della Valle started coming to Hope because **Jason** drives by the church everyday (he works for a company on industrial way, installing fireplaces and woodstoves.) and liked the way the church looked. The first Sunday they came "everyone was so warm and friendly that they made us want to come back." **Jolie** teaches physical education at Long Branch High School, where she also coaches basketball, volleyball, and track. They live in Tinton falls with son Kyle, 3.

Jonathan Lisle began attending with his parents John and Susan when David Cotton, whom they met at Tower Hill, was pastor and "fell in love with Hope." The people seemed to be genuine followers of Christ." **Jonathan**, who lives in Tinton Falls with his parents, works for a lawn service company and takes classes at Brookdale. He is a member of the bell choir.

Scott Van Bavel began attending with his wife Cyndie, our Disbursements Treasurer. Even before joining **Scott** has been an active member of the Stewardship and Finance committee. He is the service manager for a fire alarm company. He and Cyndie live in Wanamassa with their son Chris and daughter Jennifer.

Robyn Tibert, our Parish Assistant and wife of our pastor, joined hope as an affiliate member last May and has now joined as a full member. Like her husband, she graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary. Last spring she completed a master's degree in social work at Rutgers. In addition to helping plan the worship services, she can be seen every Sunday playing bass guitar (and sometimes violin) in the Praise Band.

Announcement

New Pictorial Directory

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments before and after services and meeting at the church. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- You will come to the church only once for photography and picture viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% satisfaction Guarantee
- Whether you decide to dress formal or casual, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled Dates for Photography and portrait Viewing Are:

December 7th—December 8th

If you have questions, Please contact Dave Harris

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory.

Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Sincerely,
Membership Care and Nurture Committee

Christian Education

SPLASH Ministry to Our Babies

Our Christian Education program has always encouraged parents to enroll their babies in church school as soon as they could sit. Now we're suggesting a way to reach the littlest members of the Hope Family in their cribs!

The *Splash Newsletter* provides an opportunity for outreach to our young families upon the arrival of a baby. Several Monmouth-Ocean County Presbyterian Churches are using the newsletter as a way to stay in touch with new parents at a time when they may not be making it to church. We would like to initiate this program here at Hope. Through *Splash*, we can express our loving concern at the happy, but hectic and tiring time after the baby arrives. Each newsletter provides tips and encouragement for new parents and offers ideas for beginning a faith experience as the baby grows. Along with the family newsletter, each newborn will also receive a CD of lullabies and nursery songs.

We need your help with this ministry. By agreeing to sponsor the newest arrivals in our Hope family, members of the congregation can provide a subscription to the *Splash* newsletter for the family for one year at a cost of \$15.99. The sponsor will receive the materials and send out the newsletter each month to the parents for twelve months. This is a wonderful way to connect with busy young families and let them know that we share in their joy, and are eager to have them back to show off their new arrival. Please consider using your time and resources to minister to our new babies and their parents. See Kathy Heller or sign up in the narthex if you are interested in this ministry.

Minute for Mission

The mitten tree will be going up Nov. 3rd. Please bring in a pair of NEW children's mittens to help decorate the tree and then 2 weeks later I will take them to the Salvation Army in Asbury Park to be given to the children. Thank you!!!

Adopt-A-Highway Program

We will be helping to clean up a bit of Wyckoff Rd. on Nov. 4th. Volunteers needed!! Reflector vests, gloves and pickers will be provided. Just remember to wear long pants and long sleeves. Meet in the church parking lot at 1:00 PM. Sign up sheet is on table in the narthex. See you then!!

Marilyn

A DEACON REQUEST

Through God's grace we are about to celebrate another joyful Thanksgiving. We continue to keep His children who are less fortunate in our care. Our 'Giving Tree' is again adorned with footballs this year, which contain various food items. The Deacons ask that you take a football or two, purchase the items written on them and return the items on Sunday, November 18.

Our partners in giving (the folks from ILEX on Industrial Ave) will again be participating in sharing God's gifts with the families we have 'adopted' from LOVE INC. Together we will be providing for 11 families, including 5 of our church families in need, so that they may have a Thanksgiving celebration. The food items returned will be assembled and delivered by the Deacons to our families on November 18.

Thanks to you for sharing God's gifts. May His blessings be upon you all.

Operation Christmas Child

It's time to breakout those old shoeboxes! Operation Christmas Child, an outreach of Samaritan's Purse, needs our help. It is as simple as filling a standard size shoebox with treats for a boy or girl of various ages. These shoeboxes are then delivered to children around the world, making a magical Christmas for them and spreading the love of Jesus Christ. Flyers are available in the Narthex with complete instructions. We will be collecting the shoe boxes on November 11th 2007. If you have any questions you can contact Michelle Mullan (732) 222-9182

A Story from the Malawi

“Everything I got was of great value. My mum has just given birth to a baby boy. In the box there was a beautiful blanket, three pairs of baby clothes, sweets for all of us, soap, toothpaste— just to mention a few items. All these things my daddy could not afford to buy. Please send our sincere gratitude to the people who sent us these gifts. Everybody is happy. These are gifts from God.”