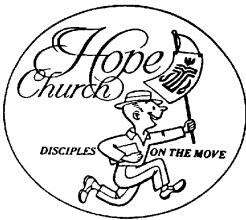


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

February 2008

Edited by  
Erica Andresen  
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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

## \$100 Challenges

This experience was an enlightening one to say the least. I was at first overwhelmed with the task of what to do..... Then I placed the money right by the doorway held by the palm branches from Hope. I did this for inspiration and also because I have learned to try to think about a decision for a while as opposed to just doing something to "get er done". But this in fact was the beginning to a new approach on how to look at stewardship. I always considered myself a somewhat good steward, but with room for improvement. The first thing I thought I will go get a job and the proceeds will be tithed to the church..... Well little did I know It is hard to find employment for 12 hours a week... the only "free" time while Mason is in school.

So I ended up doing some praying, studying, and came up with "Tammy's top 10 way to INCREASE your Tithing" to be discussed in Feb alone with "The RESULTS SHOW".

I hope this is what God had planned for my challenge, I certainly feel I grew from it, Being more AWARE of finances in our church family, my own family, the world. How to use my gifts of to the best ability and how to do this in Christ's name. I feel extremely BLESSED and just hope we at HOPE are to in 2008.

Sincerely,  
Tammy Weiss

The timing of the \$100 challenge couldn't have been more perfect. Dan and I had just had a "discussion" about money the previous night and I was still feeling somewhat upset. After Andrew placed the \$100 bill in my hand a sense of calm came over me as if it was a sign telling me to put my trust in the Lord and that He will provide for whatever needs we may have. After Andrew explained what exactly it was we had volunteered for, my mind started racing. I had grandiose ideas about giving a dollar to everyone on the boardwalk with the address of the church attached or buying bibles for children in foster care. Then the stress set in. My competitive side started kicking in and soon no idea I had was good enough. That's when I took a step back and remembered the intention of the challenge. The money was not to be kept safe but to be used in any way that I felt would further the message of the church. This is when the answer to the challenge became evident for me. One of the things I love most about this church is how we take care of each other as a congregation. On that note, I decided to use my \$100 to treat Virginia Lippincott to a day on the town. I told Virginia the day was hers to do whatever she pleased. We went out to lunch then hit the stores. Virginia was able to stock up on some latch hooks and new sweaters. We were two wild and crazy gals out on the town. The money was the secondary gift as what really mattered was the time that we were able to spend together. Looking back, the challenge made it easy for me to do something I had wanted to do for awhile. It also looks like we've started something good because Virginia and I are planning to go shopping again real soon.

Michelle Mullan

With the \$100 that was entrusted to me, I first asked the congregation to donate any money they could to help me rejuvenate the Prayer Garden. With the help given to me I increased my \$100 by 110%! With that money I was able to afford many nice plants to decorate the garden, and perennials that will bloom at the beginning, middle, and end of spring so the garden will be beautiful all year.

From this experience I learned that if you put patience and trust into something you really care about, and really put time and effort into it you can achieve something special that will bring many people happiness, joy, and warmth to their heart. I learned the patience that I needed and was taught the responsibility to start a project and see it through to completion.

Jen Van Bavel

For me this was one of the most difficult challenges I have ever been tasked with. I'm not going to lie, I procrastinated for the first month or so. When I finally got started, every idea that crossed my mind I kept questioning whether or not it was worthy of investing the \$100. Also, I kept feeling worried that my investment wouldn't be as good as everyone else's. I second guessed myself until time had run out and I had done nothing with the money. Too make a long story short, I did exactly what the parable was teaching me not to do. I buried my talent.

- Jason

### From the Deacons

The Deacons would like to collectively express our thanks and acknowledge the kind and generous hearts of our congregation. You continuously rise to our 'giving' requests and at this time of year, with our Thanksgiving feast request followed immediately by our Christmas gifts request, it is not as easy to be so generous to others when your own families are your focus. You always provide for those we are extending helping hands to. We appreciate you and we thank you.

Bless you all for sharing God's gifts.

### Mission Committee

#### PROPANE TANK UPDATE

Thank you everyone for your generous donations. \$519.00 was received for the propane tanks. A check for this amount will be sent to Rev. Brigham to help him buy the needed propane tanks for keeping the homeless warm. Thank you all again!!

#### MITTEN TREE

The mitten tree is going up once again. Now is the best time to help decorate it---Mittens are now on sale !! Please help decorate our tree for those children in need, (any size, any color). They will be given to the local Salvation Army. The tree will be up for Feb. 10th and 17th.

## Moment for Stewardship.....

### What is Per Capita and why it's important

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 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 2008, our per-capita apportionment is \$30.84 per member, 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. In 2007, Hope Presbyterian had to pay out over \$2000.00 from other funds because our per capita apportionment was not met. How do you suppose we can do better in 2008?

Consider per-capita not as your dues to be paid to the church, but rather as a form of mission giving to the larger work of the Presbyterian Church. At Hope, we love a good mission.

**Financial Seminars coming to Hope!**

**U Budget, U Save!**

**Mark your calendars everyone.** Coming to Hope on Thursday evening at 7 pm, February 21, 2008 we welcome United Teletech Financial Federal Credit Union of Tinton Falls to give us a FREE seminar on how to budget and save. We all seem to live paycheck to paycheck and wonder how our future can be more financially secure. A representative from the Credit Union is going to share insight on how you can prepare better for the future and **STILL SAVE!** This plans to be an exciting evening where we will learn, in layman's terms and with no hard selling, that we **CAN** be good stewards financially. Childcare will be provided and refreshments will be served. Please come and join us. This Spring, we will welcome them back with a seminar on Retirement/Investment Planning. More to follow at a later date.



### Top 10 ways to involve kids in stewardship

10. Recycle everything from cans to clothes
9. Consolidate car trips; read a book while you wait
8. Shut off lights and appliances not in use
7. Harvest what you plant, share what you harvest
6. Share clothes with a sibling or parent
5. Use e-mail rather than long distance
4. Treat possessions as valuables
3. Ride a bike or walk for short errands and exercise
2. Wipe your feet
1. Eat leftovers

## **STEWARDSHIP OF TIME**

Perhaps the most important aspect of Stewardship, especially in today's world, is the proper management of the gift of time.

Time is more fleeting than any talent and more precious than any treasure. It is ironic to think that technology has created many time-saving devices and yet we seem to have less and less time.

Calendars seem to fill without us even being aware of whether we are making the best use of our time. God gives us 24 hours each day - how much of that time do we spend with Him and with one another.

### **Disciples in Prayer**

The practice of stewardship has the power to change how we understand our lives. Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and the source of all we have and are. Christian stewards also know the power of prayer.

### **Communicating with God**

Prayer has always been the cornerstone of the Christian experience. As we embark on our Stewardship journey we must realize that all good things come from God and we are what we are because of Him. While individual prayer is the simplest form of praise to the Lord, Stewardship of Time asks for a commitment of allotting time for prayer. Our commitment to the Stewardship of Time calls us to daily prayer and spiritual exercises to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and one another. Take time each day to pray for one another and for Hope as we journey into 2008.

Pray this prayer:

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the Psalmist that yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Camp Johnsonburg 2008

Camp Johnsonburg provides a unique opportunity for young people to learn to live a Christian life in a changing world. This wonderful summer program is open to young people, ages 7 to 17. Learn more about Camp Johnsonburg by picking up a brochure in the Narthex or visiting their website at [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org).

Once again this year, the Deacons will be providing partial scholarships of \$100 to all youth from Hope Church who attend Camp Johnsonburg. 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.

# Church School

## It's Fish Bank Time

Children will be receiving fish banks in church school on Feb. 3 to begin our Lenten participation in One Great Hour of Sharing. Each Sunday, in our church school worship time, we'll learn about how this mission project helps people in need around the world in a big way with what seems to us like a small amount of money. By helping others in the name of the Lord, we are loving our neighbors around the world. Banks will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 16.

## USHER UP-DATE

We had a good turn out at the usher meeting, however, there were many ushers who were not able to attend. It is very important that Carol-Jeanne gets to speak to everyone on the schedule. There will be another meeting planned in the near future for those who did not make it to the first one. Please watch the bulletin insert for the date and time of the next meeting. Everyone is doing a wonderful job so far. We are just tweaking the methods a little. Please call Carol-Jeanne at 732-542-8060 if you have any questions.