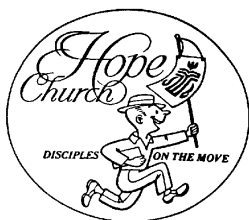


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

April 2008

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

April Stewardship Prayer

Father, make giving a blessing and not a burden. As we reflect more and more on all you have given us, make us eager and willing givers of all the gifts you have poured down on us. Make each one of us grateful. In Christ, Amen.

Want to feel really good?? SACRIFICE!!



We at Hope Presbyterian are very blessed to have a generous and caring congregation. When someone is in need we step right up to the plate and reach deep. That makes us feel good when we help, doesn't it?

An even better way to feel good about our generosity to others or to this church is when we have to really sacrifice in order to help.

Sacrifice, is the quality that makes love real; that saves love from being another four - letter word. Where there is love, we give of ourselves and of our substance—willingly.

Sacrificial giving is the kind that is done at great personal cost to the giver. It is possible to give [without suffering any loss](#). Indeed, we do this all the time. When a family donates a bag of old clothes to the Salvation Army, or when a multibillionaire gives an impressive-sounding six-figure contribution, they feel no loss because it is in their best interest to discard those things anyway. Strictly speaking, in the words of author Randy Alcorn, this is not giving at all but “selective disposal”. This kind of giving is fine (it is certainly better than throwing old clothes or money away), but there is nothing distinctively Christian about it. Even in the Old Testament, King David recognized this difference when he insisted, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24). The one great biblical example of generosity is [Jesus’ gift of himself](#) to make atonement for sins, which was done at unimaginable cost to the giver (1 John 3:16). Obviously, our greatest sacrifices are not even in the same league with Jesus’ unique sacrifice. But we Christians are imitators of our Lord, and for that reason we give our very best, [that which it pains us to lose](#).

So if Jesus sacrificed himself for us, what is it that He wants us to do in return?
(To be continued in the May newsletter).....

SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT

It's Spring Cleaning time and we want to help!!!
So as you are cleaning and finding your gently used clothes, shoes, furniture, odds and ends, linens, toys, jewels, well you get the idea--Please save everything for our **Hope Yard Sale**... SAVE the DATE and tell your friends



Date: SATURDAY April 26, 2008

Where: Hope Presbyterian Church

Time: 9 AM to 2 PM--refreshments will be served -- (Donation suggested)

There will also be a bake sale--all baked goods can be dropped off on Friday or Saturday
DROP OFF times for yard sale items-- Sunday April 20, *after service* and Friday April 25 from 3PM to 7PM. Large items may be stored in the manse garage.

We need volunteers for Friday 3-7PM and Sat 7AM - 3PM-

We will be doing 2 hour shifts and the signup sheets for both the yard sale and baked goods will be in the Narthex--Please sign up to help- We look forward to having you involved!

~In Christ,

The Stewardship & Finance Team

From the Deacons

Thanks to this wonderful, giving congregation for your quick response and generosity. All of the food items that you have provided have been delivered to our families in need so that they might have a dinner to celebrate this glorious Easter. In pairing up with our 'giving buddies' at ILEX, we have been able to provide for 14 families!

Praise God.

In addition, we would like to share with the congregation a letter that we received from one of our Love INC families just this week:

Dear Margot and Members of Hope Presbyterian Church,

I apologize for being so late with my thank you. It's been a tough couple of months. Once again, thank you so much for always being there for me and my boys. It means the world to me and takes some of the stress of the holidays away. The boys loved their gifts and we had a wonderful Christmas. God bless you all and thank you so much.

Love,
Beth

Church School News

Bring back those Fish Banks on April 6 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Our last church school session will be June 1. In order to provide summer nursery care, we need volunteers to provide this service. We'd like to have two adults and/or teens each Sunday. Please see Kelly Colao or Kathy Heller to volunteer.

COASTAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Hope Church will be assisting Coastal Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, April 12th. No construction experience is necessary, just a willing heart and body. Slots are available from 9am to 4pm. You can work for as many or as few hours as you want. Please consider donating your time to help enrich a local family's life. There is a sign up in the narthex. If you have any questions see Michelle Mullan or call (732)222-9182.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR COASTAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

1. For those not interested in building a NEW house, they have a program called, "Brush with Kindness"-renovating older homes in need of repair or painting.

2. Another activity where they can use volunteers is as sales-people in their "Restore", where they sell used items.

If interested in either of these activities, call Pam at 732-223-7855, or - go online at www.Coastalhabitat.org and click on "How to Volunteer" and then the Skills and Interest sheet." Fill it out, mark on the bottom either Restore or Brush with Kindness and return. It will go right back to Pam.

Let me know if you sign up for either of these.

Thank you,
Marilyn Hicken

FREE TRIAL OFFER!

I'd like to offer you the opportunity to experience something that's educational, fun, and uplifting all at the same time. Maybe the Old Testament is a mystery to you...? Maybe the Bible is something you'd like to know more about but you don't know where to start...?

Why not try Blast-Off Bible Study right here at First Presbyterian of Manasquan? We meet every Wednesday evening from seven to eight - or whenever the guy at the podium gives it up (never later than 8:15, though). We're going through the Old Testament (the book of Ruth right now) and connecting it with the culture and people of that day, with the world and Word of the New Testament, and with our daily lives here and now. It's a great way to make the scriptures come alive. Are you a leader in the church? It's critical to be familiar with The Leader. Are you a new Christian? No better way to get to know Jesus than through His Word.

There's no obligation, no salesman will call, and there's a money-back guarantee if you're not completely satisfied. But how will you know if you don't try? The Bible really *can* be fascinating and fun. So set the recorder for the "American Idol" results show and watch it when you get home without commercials - you'll never go back to the old way - and come on out to Bible study and have a blast at Blast-Off!

David Cotton

April Birthdays

- 2 Theresa Escobedo
- 2 Jolie Della Valle
- 3 Chris Scheidt
- 3 Barbara Patterson
- 5 Nancy Massa
- 7 Luke Baker
- 7 Margaret Light
- 15 Joy Dunn
- 17 Natashia Brown
- 17 Jonathan Straccia
- 26 Melissa Emmons
- 27 Billy McCabe
- 30 Brian Krajcik