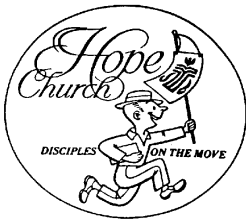


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

September 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

## **Coming on September 7th: 11th Annual Hope Backyard Picnic!**

Make plans now to attend the eleventh annual Hope Backyard Picnic, to be held on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will take place in the back yard of the manse following the worship service, and in the case of inclement weather will be moved indoors. Come dressed casually with your own lawn chair and ready for an enjoyable gathering of our Church family. Some picnic details:

The picnic sign up list is available in the Narthex. Please sign up by Sunday, August 31st.

-Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, paper products, and utensils will be provided. (Note: Special thanks to Ceil Norman for again arranging for donations of hamburgers and hot dogs from her employer, Key Foods)

-We ask each family to bring a side salad to share (if your last name begins with A through L) or a dessert to share (if your last name begins with M through Z).

So mark your calendars, sign up, and get ready for some fun. Questions may be addressed to any Deacon.



## Pumpkinfest and Craft Sale – September 27<sup>th</sup>!

Hope Church will be holding its annual Pumpkinfest and Craft Sale on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm (rain date, October 11<sup>th</sup>). This will be a fun time for the entire family, and also an opportunity for outreach to the community. As always, we will be selling pumpkins, mums, corn stalks, hay bales, and baked goods. A large number of crafters will be present selling their special crafts. And we will be grilling hot dogs for lunch.

Please plan to attend this fun event, and invite your friends and neighbors. As always, we would appreciate your help! Many of you will be contacted to ask you to help by baking for the bake sale. In addition, you can sign up to help in a number of ways: selling pumpkins/mums, kids' activities, helping with lunch, selling baked goods, setup on Friday afternoon at 3pm, setup on Saturday morning at 7:30am, or cleanup on Saturday afternoon at 2pm. See the sign up list in the Narthex if you would like to help.

## Sunday School is Back!

Come on back to see your teachers and friends on Sept. 7 as we share our summer news, a breakfast snack, and begin a new year of growing in our faith. Our senior class will be completing their study of the Old Testament, while the junior and nursery classes begin a unit named "Called By God."

All students are asked to join in our special mission this year, contributing food for the Eatontown Food Bank. We want to support this local effort to fight hunger at a time when food banks are running low on donations. On Sept. 7 and every first Sunday of the month please bring in a food item. Especially needed at this time: Jell-O, cereal, muffin mix, tuna, and cookies.

## Adopt a Highway

Adopt a Highway is here again . We meet Sunday October 19th at 1:00 pm in the church parking lot. Many hands will make it fun and effortless. Sign up on the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

## Summer God- Experiences

Carol-Jeanne Turk is collecting your experiences. God will be with you for the summer months. When you witness Him in your lives this summer write down the experience and email it to Carol-Jeanne. If you notice the glory of a sunrise over the ocean or you meet someone who goes above and beyond the norm to help you out, thank god and let Carol-Jeanne know. Your stories will be shared in this year's Advent Booklet. God loves you and wants you to spread His Good News to everyone in as many ways as possible. Add a Bible verse to supplement the experience and a prayer to thank God for it. Send all stories to [adventbooklet@live.com](mailto:adventbooklet@live.com). Work on as many stories as God gives you over the entire summer. Talk to Carol-Jeanne for more information. 732-542-8060.

## **Recycling 4 Cash**

We can earn \$\$\$ collecting empty inkjets, laser toners and cell phones!!  
Bring in cartridges from home, family and friends or ask to place a box at work.  
We have set up the collection box downstairs by the copier  
Help save the environment one cartridge at a time!!!

THANK YOU to all who attended the Dining to Donate at Applebee's. We appreciate your support.

-The Stewardship Committee

# STEWARDSHIP

## ANSWERS Word Search Puzzle

This is **a most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. **Elaine** Taylor a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized, **truthfully**, **from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or scholar to see some of them **at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new sales record. The local, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, the books are right there in plain view, hidden from sight. **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answer. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**, there really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

The Books are in order in this puzzle:

Amos Mark Luke John Joel Judges Job Hebrews Esther Acts James  
Ruth Romans Titus Matthew Genesis Philemon Chronicles Daniel Nahum Hosea  
Lamentations Revelation Timothy Samuel Numbers Malachi  
Peter Exodus Kings

## Scrip Sundays this Fall

**Put on your calendar the following Sundays when Gift cards (Scrip) will be sold downstairs during fellowship time:**

**September 21**

**October 19**

**November 16 (Place your Christmas orders on this date)**

**December 21**

**See Judy McGuire if you have any questions.**

## How's our giving?

As of July 31, 2008 we are behind in our giving:

Operating Budget	-\$7032.59
Building Fund (mortgage)	-\$4405.00

This has been a tough year for many people financially. However, if we are able to close this gap by the end of the year, it is less we need to take from our savings account to balance our budget. Please keep this in your prayers and remember to give until it feels good!

## 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 pariah 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.

The intimacy of prayer must be captured at a dedicated, quiet time during the day. Just as we would make any other appointment, make an appointment with the Lord to pray.

How we pray is a personal choice with many variations. Our commitment to the Stewardship of Time calls us to daily prayer and spiritual exercises to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and one another.

- Bible Study and Reflection
- Listen to Religious Programs on Radio/ TV
- Presence at church events
- Listen to Religious Music
- Morning, Midday, Evening and Night Prayers (Liturgy of the Hours)
- Retreats and Days of Recollection
- Spiritual Direction
- Reading Religious Articles and Books
- Adult Religious Education Programs
- Theology Classes and Seminars
- Quality Time for Family and Friends

### Ample Time for Rest and Recreation

Bruce C. Birch, author of “The Steward Living in Covenant” states, ‘How we use and manage God’s gifts affects far more than our economic life. We are stewards in our use of God’s creation, in our personal relationships, in our political and ecclesial institutions, in our work, and in our use of time. Indeed we are stewards of the gospel itself – the good news entrusted to all of us in the church’.

This month, think about how you use your time. This month ask yourself: Where do I see that an allotment of my time can make a difference? Pledge with God that you will make a bigger difference in the use if this time out of gratitude for all He has done for you. The question is never really “Do I have time?” but “What do I have time for?”

**Biblical Food for thought:**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
A time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

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“Moment of Stewardship from 8/24/08 by Becky Harris-Flynn”

I consider myself lucky to be a member of a very special club here at Hope. Other members include my sister Rachel, Daniel Buckley, and his sister Elizabeth. I’ll call this club “Former Hope Church Youth” - members that have spent their entire lives here at Hope. We are members that were born of members, baptized here, and attended Sunday school taught by some of the people still teaching today. We are alumni of Junior Choir, Thenka Theou and Chi Rho, the old youth groups that used to meet Thursdays and Sundays.

When I think back now on my childhood, my memories always center around my church family. I spent a lot more time at school with the friends I made there, but the images that first come to mind are of Johnsonburg retreats, Sunday nights with Chi Rho at the old Friendly’s in Shrewsbury, “Capture the Flag” in the front yard of Sue Mahns, Colby musicals at the church in Long Branch, and the Creek bank musicals under the direction of Beverly Allender.

As I grew older, there was never a question of “if” but “how” I would choose to get involved. I am, after all, the daughter of David and Mary Harris, and I believe you would be hard-pressed to find many people who have given more of their time, treasure or talents over the years than my parents. Growing up with them and watching them act as Clerks of Session, Deacons, Gleaners, Elders, Choir Members; I knew that my time and talents were equally as important as financial contributions. When we had the Stewardship Fair last year, I felt drawn to the youth programs here at Hope. Being a former Hope Youth and treasuring that experience, I wanted to share those memories and help indoctrinate new kids into our special group.

I have found only one potential pitfall to being a member of this club. We had such amazing teachers who gave us such a strong spiritual foundation, that if we weren’t careful, it was easy to think that we had learned it all already. When you have been lucky enough to have grown up with Jesus in your home, it can be easy to be lazy about your faith. Your faith has always been there. It’s easy to take for granted. Sometimes I see new Christians and I envy the vigor with which they almost attack their faith. That enthusiasm sometimes seems to be a trait mostly reserved for born again Christians.

I began teaching Sunday school last year. For each Sunday that I was teaching, I would spend the preceding week researching the lesson. I would first get down my old Bible off the shelf; the one Reverend Al had given me on my confirmation, to read the scriptures we would be learning about. Next I would hit the Internet to read as many interpretations of the scripture as I could find. Sometimes I would turn to my parents for proper pronunciations. I found myself discussing the stories at home to look for new insights. I had heard these stories a hundred times before, but what did they mean? What were we to take away from it? How was this applicable to the lives of our kids? I ran to the Bible store to get a new study Bible after realizing that I needed more information. While I was there, I would pick up a few more books for background reading. If I was going to teach something, I had to really know what I was talking about.

Invariably the kids would ask me questions for which I hadn’t prepared. These were usually the type of “*why does God let bad things happen to good people*” questions that we as Christians struggle with and theologians may still debate, and they would leave me running to Kathy and Andrew for back-up. I would leave lessons with questions of my own that would have me thinking about faith all week, running back to my Bible and to the Internet to search for answers. The more information I found, the more time I spent thinking about how this all related to not only my students, but to how I should be living my own life.



One day, it hit me. In preparing myself to teach these kids, I was working on my OWN faith! I was growing. I was learning. I was listening to God a lot more closely. I hadn't done that in a really long time. These were the same stories, the same lessons I had learned repeatedly throughout my entire life. I thought I knew them inside and out. It never occurred to me that I was going to get anything more out of them.

I remember Reverend Al telling me that I had a very strong relationship with God for a child, but that was just a foundation. As I moved to adulthood, I needed to develop a more mature relationship with him. Well anyone that knows me can tell you that I hate being told I doing something the wrong way. I knew all the Bible stories. What else did he think I had to learn?

How right he was. There is a certain irony that in attempting to bring the scriptures to the youth of Hope, my adult relationship with God has finally deepened. God has a funny way of getting you to where you need to be, usually without you even realizing you been traveling until you're already on your way. Sometimes in preparation for the next day's lesson, I would spend an entire Saturday reading the Bible and thinking about what it meant to live the scriptures the way God intended. What else could have caused me to have personal intensive Bible studies in my own home?

Nothing has renewed my vigor and my faith the way this Stewardship of my time has. I have had so much fun the past year not only with Sunday school, but with the pageant. Kathy has a lot of really great ideas for this coming year and I am excited to be part of it again.

When I was in college, I interned for some pretty big and impressive companies like IBM and MTV. However when I graduated, I made the decision to turn down the higher salary, 401Ks and larger pensions to work for a very small production company. There were quite a few reasons. I didn't want to get pigeon-holed into just doing one task; I wanted to learn a little bit everything. A small company has an organic fluidity that enables you to jump in and learn by doing. At IBM, I had to choose to be a graphic designer OR a programmer OR a project manager. At my small company, I was all three plus a writer, a director, a salesman, an accountant, and an HR rep. There were only six of us at this company so we did everything from the loftiest tasks to the lowest. I would meet with CEOs and then come back to clean the bathroom. Another reason I choose to work at a small company was to avoid starting on the bottom rung of the ladder and having to work my way up over decades; I wanted to jump right in a have a say in the direction of the company. I found that small companies foster a family environment unlike any large corporation. I loved it and I have been working for small companies ever since.

I think Hope Church is a lot like that. We are a small company with a small work force, but we have the same agendas as the “Joel Olsteen-sized” companies. In order to make it happen, we are even more in need of talented people. We have so much more opportunity for growth than larger churches. We can choose to get involved in almost any way we want. We may not be as flashy or impressive, but because we are small, each one of us is so much more vitally important to our family. Each of us has a greater responsibility. None of us can get lost in the crowd. I think that is really exciting! God has given each of us gifts. It’s the diversity of these gifts complementing one another that allows us to work as many members of one body and allows such a small congregation to accomplish so much.

In closing, I just want to thank the Lord and this congregation for not only allowing me, but also for inspiring me to become part of your youth ministries. God Bless!

Thought I would share this. I got this from Rev Al. It is a photo of the old “Kids of the Kingdom” around 1983. This was the precursor to Junior choir. That is me (Becky) at the bottom of the stairs. Betsy Fee’s son, Chris, is at the top of the stairs to the left. Bob Mahn’s daughter Linda is the taller one to the left of the stairs.



## September Birthdays

3 Emily McGuire  
9 Connie Scheidt  
14 Susan Lisle  
14 Tara Gurer  
20 Gail McCabe  
21 Jonathan Lisle  
23 Frank Clark  
28 Edwin Rivera  
28 Martha Dorsett  
29 Thomas Baker  
29 Mary Mazza  
30 Ceil Norman