

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



## NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

December 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

## FROM THE DEACONS

What a blessing our congregation is, both with sharing God's love, and with sharing His blessings. Each Thanksgiving the Deacons ask for food and food cards for our families in need (both families from our church and families that we help in the community) and you, the wonderful folks from Hope Presbyterian, always respond so generously. Food items are asked to be returned on Sunday, November 23 and the Deacons will arrange food packages and deliver the food on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Thanksgiving, again partnering with our friends on Industrial Way, we will be able to help 11 families have a better holiday.

And right around the corner..... look for the white 'giving tree' in the Narthex again on November 30. This time it will be decorated with Christmas gift requests for the children and the families that we support. We ask that gifts be limited to \$20-25. The return date will be Sunday, December 21. Gifts will please be wrapped and have the ornament from the tree attached, so we can distribute the specific gift requests accurately. Feedback from one of our Deacons who delivered gifts to her family in need last year was that she was sure these were the only gifts that the kids were getting. The single mom works so hard to support her kids, she just couldn't afford to buy gifts. She was so grateful for our contribution. What a blessing we were able to give that family. Let's do it again this year. The Deacons extend their thanks and appreciation for all of your efforts. God bless you.

## **FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

November 29, 2009

Set aside November 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 PM for a night of fun and decoration. We will be preparing the sanctuary for the up-coming Advent and Christmas season. There will be a light soup dinner with light desserts. The Worship Committee is working on a learning experience for the whole family. We want to have lots of fun while we do it. An Advent sing along during the hanging of the greens should get us in the mood for the season. There is even a Christmas trivia game which the whole family can join in. Come and be a part of setting up the anticipation of the season and learn about the background of Advent at the same time. The little ones will have lots to do to help out. Please RSVP to Carol-Jeanne Turk so that we know how much soup, etc to plan for. Call her at 732-542-0968 or e-mail her at nanaturk@hotmail.com.

### **Hope Church 2008 Christmas Card Display**

Again this Christmas season the Deacons are asking members and friends of Hope Church to bring a Christmas card to the church to be displayed in the narthex for the holiday season. This will be done in lieu of our sending Christmas cards to others in the Hope Church community this year. Please bring your card to the church anytime between December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Deacons will then accept donations associated with Christmas card and postage savings, and these donations will be presented to Love INC. Your donation can be placed in the offering plate, and checks should be payable to Hope Church with a notation of "Love INC". Thanks in advance for your participation and support of Love INC during the holiday season.

### **Scrip Sundays for December**

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

**December 7th**

**Cards will be available for pick up on December 14th.**

**Stewardship Quote of the month** – “I do not believe we can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” - C.S. Lewis

Our giving as of October 31 is still at a shortfall. Please be prayerful in trying to maintain your pledges through the end of the year.

We are behind still:

Operating fund - \$10,569.00

Building Fund - \$6,962.00



The Stewardship Task Force put together a memorable campaign in November. November 2, Judy McGuire gave a moving testimony and demonstration on how we can use our Time more effectively. She inspired many with her honesty on how she was the Grinch of time and how she likes to spend it on herself. Don't we all? Time is a gift she said, and it is a precious commodity. Christ deserves more of our time; in the times we worship him, speak of Him and for him, or even in our actions as His disciples on earth. So, what part of your time can you give to God more of in 2009?

On November 9, Adam Hayek had the unpopular task of discussing our Treasure. His honest and open discussion about our gifts of money was both humorous and riveting. While the discussion of money can be uncomfortable, it needs to be discussed openly and honestly more often. Money is the most discussed subject in the Bible. But our fear of money and our church finances sometimes clouds our better judgment when it comes to giving from the heart. As Adam stated, Hope Presbyterian Church is held dear to his heart; it's where he was married and where his unborn son will be baptized. It is God's house, a place not only where we go to worship, but where lives are touched by God's grace and love. So in 2009, will you be called to give more of your treasure back to God's glory?

On November 16, Becky Flynn and two of our middle school youth presented a skit called The Talent Graveyard. This was a good example showing us how our talents can go to waste and how if we try to develop them slowly, they grow into something beautiful for our Lord. We can use this example to help us think, what special gifts and talents do we have that we can use to glorify God more in 2009?

November 23rd ended the stewardship campaign with Commitment Sunday. The congregation participated in hanging 'gifts' on the Commitment Tree. Each 'gift' was a symbol of a commitment from each of us as to which one of our gifts of time, talent or treasure we could give back more of to God in 2009. God gives us so much and we are to give back a portion of his gifts to his kingdom. The Bible says to us, Put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received...1 Peter 4:10. In 2009, let us ALL come together as one body of Christ and follow faithfully, share gratefully, live responsibly, and possess loosely.

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If you haven't already done so and still feel led to pledge for 2009, your pledge cards should be handed in by December 7<sup>th</sup>. Be prayerful and remember "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Heb 6:10

Dear Hope Church Family and Friends;

Once again through the support of our own Church Family and some wonderful local businesses our Silent Auction Dinner was a great success.

The Committee would like to Thank everyone that donated, helped in so many ways, and attended. We made \$2,500.00 to go directly to the operation of our Hope Church. A big Thank You to you all !!!

Mark your calendars and save your used items---Hope Church Yard Sale will be May 16th from 9a-2p.

## 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!!!

*Join us for a fellowship and soup gathering*

*WHEN: Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 4PM*

*WHERE: Sanctuary*

*WHAT: We will gather to sing carols, decorate the Christmas tree, hang decorations in the sanctuary windows - plus whatever other touches to celebrate the coming of our Savior we need to add. Then, when the sanctuary is completely decorated, we will go downstairs and share a meal of home-made soup (provided by Adam Hayek, Jack Morgan, and Kelly Colao) and bread, cocoa and hot cider, and desserts.*

*If you know someone who might like to join us - a neighbor, or perhaps a friend from where you work - please feel free to invite them.*

*Let's gather to celebrate the Advent of our Lord, and the bond we share as the family of Christ. Bring your appetites, and prepare to have fun!*

## Behind the Scenes at “God Made a Way in a Manger”

Write down the date now... Sunday, December 14 at 6:30. You'll want to be sure to be part of the audience at a “dress rehearsal” for a Sunday School Christmas pageant. That's the premise of Hope's own pageant this year where fantasy and reality become amazingly intertwined. For example, Rebecca Harris Flynn is once again directing our production, and actually lending her expertise to play the director in “God Made a Way in a Manger.” We have teachers playing teachers, a pregnant Mary, teen angels, cool kids, watchful shepherds, darling “animals”, and an unexpected number of wise men. From the chaos of a rehearsal, the true meaning of the birth of Christ will emerge through drama, comedy, carols, and a theme song you'll find yourself humming when you least expect it. Please come and support this wonderful family evening that ends in a dessert buffet provided by the Deacons. In the midst of your long holiday to-do list, give yourself an evening off to experience the meaning of Christmas, and share in joyful fellowship with the Hope family.

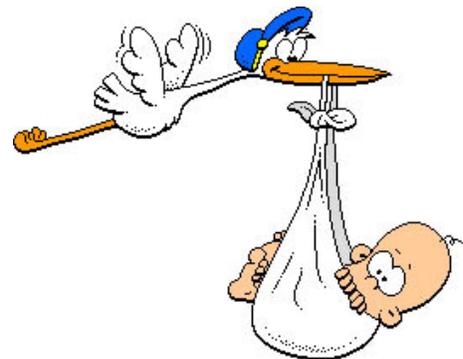
### SAVE THE DATE !!!!!!!

Members and Friends of Hope Presbyterian Church

January 10th Saturday from 10:30-12:30 am  
John Calvin Room  
Hope Presbyterian Church

A BABY SHOWER  
to honor all the newest BLESSINGS from GOD  
for our 3 couples who are expecting!!!!

BRUNCH TO BE SERVED  
GAMES TO BE PLAYED  
FUN TO BE HAD BY ALL



We will have donations gladly accepted for the 3 families for them to receive a GIFT CARD from the church as well as their own baby gift registry from Babies R US. Please see Tammy Weiss for more info on this. [tammyweiss@optononline.net](mailto:tammyweiss@optononline.net) or 732-598-0497

Thank you !!

## **December Birthdays**

- 2 Cyndie Van Bavel
- 2 Scott Van Bavel
- 2 Michelle Mullan
- 5 Marlene Cain
- 11 Joe Colao
- 15 Bob Mahns
- 16 Marie Butler
- 18 Rachel Hayek
- 19 Les Paul Morris
- 21 Lou Eckert
- 22 Kay Cass
- 24 Margot Eble
- 26 Maria Dimitroulakos
- 30 Carol Fenwick