

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

January 2009

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

## **A Big Deacon Thank You**

The 'giving tree' has been emptied, the gifts have been purchased, and all the gifts and gift cards were returned on December 21st. The Deacons sorted the gifts and delivered them to our 11 families on the 21st.

Here is a little more to the story that will make your hearts more joyful. Within our 11 families, there are 20 children. Joining with our giving buddies from Industrial Way (ILEX), we have been able to give each child 2 presents and provide gift cards for the families with no young children. That happened because of you and your love and generosity.

Thank you to all of Hope Presbyterian Church's family. Merry Christmas to you. Because of you there are 20 of God's children who will be receiving gifts this Christmas. God bless you all.

## **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!!!

# STEWARDSHIP

Steve Troxel recently published this online. As followers and disciples of Jesus, this bears reminding us that we are called by Christ to serve Him with the gifts He has given us. That is what intentional stewardship is about...using our gifts in whatever form they are, to bring glory to God's kingdom. The disciples were only 12. Here at Hope we are 119! Imagine what we could do to make a difference if we **all** serve!

## **Preparing God's People To Serve**

Jesus' ministry on earth lasted only three short years, but His message continues to be preached today and has spread to nearly every country and language of the world. When Jesus began His ministry, He knew His time would quickly pass; yet, rather than trying to preach to the greatest number of people, Jesus focused the majority of His effort on a small group of twelve men.

Jesus taught His disciples about the Kingdom of God and how they must learn to truly love; "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). He taught them about the forgiveness of sin through His sacrificial death, and about their true source of strength: "Remain in Me, and I will remain in you...apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4,5).

Jesus intensely taught His twelve closest followers with one overriding purpose - He taught so they would be prepared to serve in the Kingdom of God: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus provided a model for effective ministry which we ought to follow today.

Ephesians 4:11-12

"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

We are all called to be a disciple - a close and intimate follower of Jesus Christ. We are each given different gifts and different ministry opportunities; but the focus of a disciple is always to serve as we build up the body of Christ and love Him with all our heart. We help others become His disciple as we teach them to follow Jesus and provide the necessary tools which prepare them to serve.

We have been blessed in so many ways. By His grace we have been granted the forgiveness of all sin and given a place to worship Him for all eternity. As we better grasp this wonderful truth, we will be filled with an unshakable contentment and peace while we walk in the presence of God. But this blessing must never be selfishly held - it must be shared; "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

I pray that every day brings us closer in our relationship with God through the forgiveness and love of His Son Jesus. I pray we minister in our church, our work, our family, and among the friends God places in our path, with love and uncompromising truth. And I pray that each of us looks for ways to build up the body of Christ by preparing God's people to serve.

Have a Christ Centered Day!

Steve Troxel  
God's Daily Word Ministries

*Coming Soon.....*

### *Steward of the Month!*

*Starting this month, some members of Chi Rho will be interviewing one person from our congregation each month that will appear in the newsletter as Steward of the Month. This will be a great way for our youth to get to know our adults better and for us to learn more about intentional stewardship in the process. So be on the lookout out in next month's newsletter as we learn more about someone (will it be you??), what gifts God has given this person, and how they are used here at Hope and beyond!*

As we start the New Year, keep the vision of our commitment tree in your minds! We each re-committed to God a little more of our time, talent or treasure in 2009. Let us be joyful and deliberate in our re-commitment to Him, the One who has given us everything we have!

### **THE BELL**

#### **I KNOW WHO I AM**

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15 )

I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation ( Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22 )

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28 )

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 )

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12 )

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor.. 3: 16 ). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven ( Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are!?

## **“God Made a Way in a Manger” - A Hope Family Triumph!**

Well, we thought our second annual pageant was the event we hoped it would be. Darling camels, donkeys, and sheep (Thomas, Luke, Gabriella, Jordia, Conner, Tyler, Mason, and Kyle) clever shepherds (Danny and Riley), teenaged angels in glorious costumes Nate, Tim, and Emily) two strong wisemen (Daniel and John), bored teens/ Bethlehem travelers (Chazz and Connor), five Sunday School teachers, and, of course, the innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, and cabbage patch Baby Jesus all were on stage under the direction of Becky Harris Flynn, who actually played the role of the director in “God Made a Way in a Manger.”

We are so proud of the wonderful performances of all the Sunday School children. Everyone gave his or her best effort on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>. We are so proud of you all – working since October to perform in this pageant.

Thank you to our actors of all ages who spent many hours in rehearsal, to our costumers Mary Harris and Judy McGuire. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers, Jean Buckley, Joyce Waldron, Judy McGuire (4 days after surgery), Kathy Heller, and Nancy Massa who stepped outside their comfort zones to actually be in the pageant. As always we are grateful for Dave Harris, Adam and Rachel Hayek, Daniel Buckley, and Becky who anchor our amateur efforts with their professional acting skills. To Brian Krajcik, you are an amazing and flexible accompanist! Nancy Massa, thank you for your workshop on good speech practices for our young actors.

We are thankful to the parents and grandparents who made the commitment to have their children/grandchildren part of “God Made a Way in a Manger.” We know you spent time practicing lines, chauffeuring, and providing rehearsal snacks at a very busy time of year.

Finally, thank you to the most wonderful audience. We felt a real connection with you that enhanced our performances. And, yes, we actually heard a few “Bravos.” Heartwarming! Your support is so emblematic of what it means to be part of the Hope family. Incidentally, the free will offering raised \$40 for Operation Christmas Child” and \$40 for our own Hope Players expenses. Thank you for your generosity!

The Deacons’ desserts, Santa and his presents, an hour of warm fellowship – a perfect night at Hope!

And, yes, Becky and Kathy are already planning pageant 2009! The Hope Players are always looking for new recruits.

Yeah, it's a Baby Shower, And you're invited



Brunch to be served

Games to be played

Fun to be had by all!

In Honor of our newest Blessings from GOD  
Hope Church's 3 couples who are expecting

Date: 01/10/09

Time: 10:30am—12:30

Donations gladly accepted for GIFT CARDS for all 3 families.

They are all registered at Babies R Us for individual gifts.

Rachael and Adam Hayek

Edwin and Shannon Rivera

Jason and Jolie Evans

Held in the John Calvin room, Hope Presbyterian Church

Contact: [TammyWeiss@optonline.net](mailto:TammyWeiss@optonline.net) or call 732-598-0497

Sign up sheet in Narthex

## **January**

- 4 John Lisle
- 9 Stan Cain
- 12 Chris Van Bavel
- 12 Gianna Lignos
- 13 Donn Dorsett
- 14 Lisa Lignos
- 14 Kelly Colao
- 18 Steve Demchock
- 24 John Waldron IV
- 26 Landonia Leadbeater
- 29 Bill Heller
- 29 Brooke Boker
- 30 Dave Harris
- 30 Emile Cotton
- 30 Ruth Culmone
- 31 Kim Van Pelt