

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

February 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

Stewardship

Stewardship Quote of the month..... "Generosity is to materialism what kryptonite is to Superman." — **Lloyd Shadrach**, pastor and author

Think about this...

From the comic strip, everyone knows that kryptonite had bad effects on Superman...it drained him of his powers and could potentially kill him. Our world is VERY materialistic. We tend to want the latest electronic gadget or cell phone, or the latest video game system... things that we really could do without, but they're so cool!! What if we were to reverse that way of thinking somewhat and be more generous with the money we would have spent on that IPod, and invest it in our church? Materialism has very bad effects not only on us individually, but for our church as well. Consider this the next time you are tempted to lay out money for something that really isn't necessary and think how God can use that money for the betterment of Hope Church. Challenge yourself this month. Beat that temptation called the "Gimme- Goblin". Don't let that kind of kryptonite take the generosity out of your heart and soul.

Hope Stewardship T-shirt Slogan Contest

The Stewardship Team invites you to be part of our next fundraiser ~ Hope Church t-shirts!
We need your help!

Help us think of two catchy slogans or phrases to go with our church logo
that encourage generosity, giving, or good stewardship or
demonstrates what this church represents to you

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!!

There will be two winners

Limit of two entries per family

Deadline for submissions is February 22nd

Please place your submissions in the basket on the Welcome Center

A NEW WAY TO GIVE!!! And it's Budget-friendly!!

Ever get to church and realize you forgot your envelope or your checkbook? Or you're going away for a couple weeks and forget to catch up on your offering? We have come up with a solution so easy and cost effective you will not have to worry about this ever happening to you again.

Electronic Giving is now being offered here at Hope. Here's how it works:

Sign up using the Hope Church direct debit authorization form

Choose how often you want the deduction; weekly, bi weekly, or monthly

Costs are minimal – a onetime annual donation to offset the cost of processing (\$15.00 if you choose weekly, \$10.00 biweekly, \$5.00 monthly)

Giving can be for both the Building Fund and the Operational Fund

You pay your bills this way, why not GIVE this way?

This is a safe and secure way to give. Further details will be available beginning in February. Please see Scott Van Bavel for more information or Email

scott.vanbavel@verizon.net or 732-776-8503.

A Visit with the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hope Presbyterian's knitters have been creating and distributing prayer shawls to specific folks and areas that present need. As one of the knitters, I have gladly let my knitting needles hum and have made MANY shawls. The process is to hand your completed shawls to our distributor, Dot Van Pelt. Dottie, (Marilyn Hicken before her), then attaches a prayer that says, "This shawl was handmade for you. As it was created, we asked God to bless you with courage and strength for each new day. Prayer Shawl Ministry Team Hope Presbyterian Church, Tinton Falls, NJ." When a number of shawls accumulate, Dottie then delivers them to nursing homes, visiting nurse organizations, social workers, assisted living residences, rehabs, and to folks who are in need.

On one of my frequent trips to AC Moore, where I buy a good portion of my yarn, I saw a sister in Christ who I had not seen for a while, and, while chatting, I told her of the prayer shawls that I had been making and about the ministry at church. She had not heard of the ministry but was very interested in both knitting shawls **and** distributing them. At the time she was an oncology nurse at Monmouth Medical Center and as I was describing the ministry, she was thinking of specific people who she thought would benefit. It made me feel happy to know that our shawls would be going to someone known to the giver. Pondering my reaction, I realized that up to this point, our gifts were of the abstract nature. We knew they were going to someone, but we never knew any details or first hand information. I later gave a few shawls to my friend, and she had made a few, and she distributed them to her patients, who all had metastatic breast cancer.

Through this means of delivery, the good Lord allowed us to hear of the recipients' reactions to the shawls because our sister in Christ made it a point to tell me how much of a blessing the shawls were. I will share three stories. One of the shawls was given to a woman who was mentally challenged and was facing death. She appreciated the shawl but when our friend saw the torment that the woman's elder mother was suffering, she gave her a shawl as well and it was very warmly received.

The second story comes in the form of a note to our sister in Christ from a patient who continues to receive treatment at MMC. The thank you note says, "I am honored that this was made for me, and will treasure it always. Knowing and remembering I was prayed for while working on it. It will encourage me also to make same for others."

The third story involves one of our church family and her Mom, who now lives in a nursing home. The transition to living in a nursing home is not easy and I asked our friend if her Mom might want a prayer shawl to brighten up her day. I had a few saved up and we picked one out that was just the right softness, weight and color. Mom's frail body is not comfortable with the weight of blankets or the encumbrance of a sweater and we were hopeful that the shawl and the prayer might brighten up her day. Well, our friend reports that it was a very big hit. When Mom received it, she had been in bed and she hugged it to her chest and said how beautiful it was and how light it was. She felt so special that it had been made for her.

I am close to tears of joy when I thank the Lord for giving us this little peek into the reaction and reception of folks who get a prayer shawl and who participate in their making and distribution.

I have been trying to mentally focus on the impact of the prayer shawl ministry, to try to put into words its effect. I think that the material, physical object of the shawl is able to transcend and translate the spiritual love of the Lord into that soft and caring physical touch that we humans so often need. In this case it connects us to the soft, comforting caress of the Lord's gentle embrace. Hearing the words, "I love you" and knowing that we are loved is wonderful, but **feeling** the love and the prayers as the shawls wrap around us is a complete way to experience God's Peace. Thank you, dear Lord for helping us share your love with others and for letting us know that what we are doing is so important.

Nancy Massa

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!!!

February Birthdays

- 4 Evalyn Watts
- 5 Karen Escobedo
- 5 Gail McDonald
- 8 Leslie Eckert
- 8 Halie Susan Ellsworth
- 12 Marilyn Hicken
- 13 Susan Penrose
- 19 Erica Andresen
- 19 Louise Carson
- 24 Gayle Reese
- 27 Ann Anthony
- 27 Bob Patterson
- 27 Judy McGuire