

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

March 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

March Newsletter from the Discipleship Commission

## KIDS OF THE KINGDOM CORNER

### *CAMP JOHNSONBURG 2009*

It's March and the Camp Johnsonburg brochures are in at Hope! Events are open for youth entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade by Sept. '09. Church school students and youth can receive their brochures from Jean Buckley or at the information desk outside the John Calvin Room. The deacons are busy earning money to be given for scholarships. Ask Johnsonburg alumni why the camp is so special! *JOHNSONBURG- CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN CAMPING 1959-2009*

### *Enter the contest*

Church school kids and youth! The Stewardship t-shirt logo contest includes you! Entries for the logo will be accepted until March 8. Think of a catchy phrase that captures what stewardship is all about. There is a reward for the winners!

### *Souper Bowl of Caring*

Thank you Hope Church for reaching deep into your pocketbooks and wallets and giving \$144.00 to the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday. The money will be divided between the Eatontown Food Pantry and the United Methodist Church of Asbury Park Soup Kitchen– Heaven's Kitchen. Our members are actively involved in both of these ministries to help stamp out hunger! Ask a deacon if you want to be part of either of these mission projects.

***OGHS Is Not Just a Code Word!***

These letters stand for the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** taken during Lent. Our fish banks, named Gracie will be handed out Sunday Feb. 22 just in time for Ash Wed. Feb. 25. A calendar with suggested donations will also be handed out. The offering will be received **Palm Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>**. The money received goes to projects throughout the USA and the world. Just to name a few projects- re-building the Gulf Coast, disease prevention in the Dominican Republic, improving diet and income of families in Guatemala and working for peace in Uganda to name just a few! Any individuals who would like a bank are welcomed to have Gracie, the fish bank for your home to remind you of this offering during this Lenten Season. These can be found on the information table outside the John Calvin Room.

**SUPPORT COMMISSION**

Our newly formed Support Commission consists of the following ministries: Personnel, Administrative, Communication, and Liaison between the Hope, Korean, and Brazilian congregations. Our goal here at Hope Church is for everyone to have a heartfelt love for God in our "Commitment to Hope".

The Personnel Ministry maintains staff job positions/salaries and utilizes the PNC when needed.

The Administrative Ministry supports our Church in the everyday duties that help keep our Church running smoothly.

The Communication Ministry is concerned with bringing the discipleship of Hope Church to the outside community by advertising and maintaining the Hope Presbyterian Church website, and by being involved in community services.

The Liaison Ministry involves taking the 3 different congregations using Hope Church and weaving them into a cohesive family in their "Commitment to Hope" and to God.

Marilyn Hicken  
(Commissioner)

**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

## 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!!

Two \$50.00 gift cards

Limit of two entries per family

Deadline for submissions is March 8

Please place your submissions in the basket on the Welcome Center

### Giving for January 2009

<b><u>OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT</u></b>	\$6,095.00	NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET	\$10,000.00	DEFICIT OF \$3,905.00
<b><u>BUILDING FUND</u></b>	\$1,305.00	NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET	\$2,061.00	DEFICIT OF \$756.00

### DON'T FORGET ABOUT SCRIP EACH MONTH

The third Sunday of each month is Scrip Sunday. Scrip is an opportunity to purchase gift cards where the church receives a certain percentage back as a profit. If you are buying gas or groceries (which we all do) why not buy Scrip and let Hope benefit? Plan ahead each month and buy Scrip for yourself, family and friends! Check out the website at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and be ready for the next Scrip Sunday which is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Remember Easter is April 12<sup>th</sup> so you may want to plan for that now.

Stewardship Thought 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

## E-GIVING IS HERE!!!

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. Please see the attached link to our website and sign up today! You can mail your form to church to the attention of Scott Van Bavel, leave the form in his box, or hand in on Sunday.

[http://hopepresbyterian.com/Electronic\\_Giving\\_Authorization.doc](http://hopepresbyterian.com/Electronic_Giving_Authorization.doc)

## CHI RHO IS BACK!



Hope's youth group, Chi Rho, had our first field trip this past month to Memory Lanes in Red Bank. We had a great time as we ate and bowled the night away.

For those of you that have not joined us in the past, Chi Rho is open to everyone 7th grade and up. It is purely about fellowship and building a closer relationship with God and members of our church family. We talk, goof around, eat pizza, play video games, and generally just have a lot of fun, so please think about joining us! We meet every 2 to 3 weeks on Sunday night. Our next meeting will be on March 1 at 7pm at the Manse for Game Night!

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Flynn at 732-224-9390 or at [rebec-caflynn@comcast.net](mailto:rebec-caflynn@comcast.net).

# STEWARD OF THE MONTH

## RACHEL HAYEK

*By Rebecca Harris Flynn*



You may have noticed that our older students have been joining us for worship on the first Sunday of the month rather than attending class downstairs. This is one of the ways that our Sunday School program is helping our students make the eventual transition to full-fledged members of our congregation. We have also been supplementing our study of the Old Testament with lessons about worship and church procedure.

As part of this program, the Stewardship Team is working jointly with our Sunday School program to highlight all the diverse opportunities for stewardship that exist at Hope. We will be asking a cross-section of members to make a special "guest appearance" with us one Sunday to tell us about ways that they have found to serve. This member will be featured in our newsletter as our "STEWARD OF THE MONTH."

Newly-appointed Deacon, Rachel Hayek, was kind enough to spend a Sunday with our class to talk to us about the ways in which Deacons offer their time and talent to our congregation. The primary thing our class learned was that

Deacons are the care-givers of the church. They do everything from sending birthday cards, to coordinating transportation to church, to making hospital visits. Deacons collect food and clothes for our members and friends in need and sometimes can help financially. They help with the service by preparing and serving communion. Deacons also organize a lot of fellowship and money-raising programs such as the annual Blue Claws game and Pumpkin Festival.

In addition to her duties as a Deacon, Rachel also serves on the Worship-planning Committee. As part of this committee, Rachel helps plan every detail of our services as well as scheduling the weekly ushers. She leads us in worship some Sundays as a liturgist. She, along with Adam Hayek, planned and cooked the Passover Seder we had in April. Rachel organized the "Rock for Hunger" event which raised over \$1000 for the food bank and Hope missions. She serves on the Nominating Committee which helps recommend candidates for leadership at our church. Rachel also serves as Sexton by donating time on Saturday afternoons every 6-8 weeks or so to clean and prepare the church for worship on Sunday mornings. She played the expectant Mother Mary in our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Pageant (quite convincingly I might add) and is a member of our Bell Choir. We are truly blessed to have someone as talented and giving of their time as Rachel.

On a personal note, I am constantly amazed by how many different "jobs" to do there are right here at Hope. As Steven Buckley pointed out at our last congregational meeting, since we are a small congregation, almost half of our regularly-attending members are serving as Deacons and Elders at any given time. How lucky we are to have such dedicated people here at Hope. Many thanks to Rachel and to all of our Stewards!!

# Ministry Focus & New Leadership Structure

Dear Family and Friends of Hope Church,

Allow me to share with you some of the happenings in the last couple of months at Hope Church. As you may know, it has become the regular practice of Session to have a leadership retreat at the start of each New Year. Each January we gather together in Ocean Grove for a weekend of sharing, learning, growing, and envisioning together. The purpose of the retreat is threefold: to grow closer to each other in intimacy and understanding as a leadership team; to review the past year and envision the new; to assign new committee chairs and review expectations and responsibilities for our leadership. Our retreat has consistently been a refreshing and rewarding experience for all involved.

I would like to share with you two items of interest that came out of our Jan 09 Session Retreat. The first has to do with the new “ministry focus” that the Session has adopted. Each retreat, as a leadership team, we spend some significant time praying and asking the question, “What does God desire of Hope Church this year?” Then, having shared our reflections with one another, we try to come up with some word or phrase that focuses us for the upcoming year. Last year we felt strongly that God was calling us to grow – grow as a church, grow in discipleship, grow in stewardship, grow in love and charity - grow. And for that reason we decided that “Grow Hope” would become our focus for 08. In reviewing last year the leaders could see many ways in which the church did take a step forward in growth... yet there were still areas of concern.

One question that continued to come up was the level of our collective commitment to Christ and his Church. Is he our center, our trust, our foundation? Is he truly our All in All? And if so, how have we demonstrated that? Where have our priorities been? Where has our focus been? Where is our commitment? Have we gone “all in” so to speak? These were the questions the leadership was asking of ourselves this retreat, and these are the questions we are asking of you, the congregation. I have asked our leaders to share their reflections with you on this subject in the upcoming months... reflections on the question, “What would it mean for us to truly **Commit to Hope**?”

The second point of interest coming out of our retreat was our adopting a new leadership structure. In the past, our leadership structure was based on a committee-based model. What is a committee? From the Book of Order

A committee is appointed either to study and recommend appropriate action or to carry out directions or decisions already made by a governing body. It shall make a full report to the governing body that created it, and its recommendations shall require action by the governing body.

At any one time we had up to eight different committees, each with a chair from session, which oversaw a particular ministry. While this model has functioned well enough, there were a couple problematic aspects to it. The first was that it led to too many meetings. With eight committees, and the nominating committee, and a deacon board, and Session, etc., there were just too many meetings going on, and not enough people to engage in them effectively. In other words, we were spread too thin. The second problematic aspect was that the committee model requires decisions be approved by Session. The net result is that often ministry initiatives would have to wait for approval, and our Session meeting would get bogged down with “maintenance” type discussions that squeezed out time to engage in the larger questions of the Church’s ministry and mission.

It is for this reason that the Session decided to shift from a committee-based model of organization, to a commission-based model. What is a commission? From the Book of Order.

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a governing body. The appointing body shall state specifically the scope of power given to a commission. A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to its governing body to be incorporated in its minutes and to be regarded as the actions of the governing body itself.

In other words, commissions are formed to get work done, and conduct business on behalf of the Session. There are two main implications of this shift in models... one practical, the other philosophical. On the practical side, we now have half the number of ministry units, formally called committees, now called commissions with each having a much greater scope in terms of responsibility. This means fewer meetings on the whole, while requiring a greater amount of ownership and investment on the part of those involved. From a philosophical standpoint, this is a “permission-giving” model of ministry. Rather than being required to always be checking in, we are saying to our commissions, “Go... do your best to get things done. We trust you.”

We now have four commissions responsible for looking after the day-to-day life of the church, each with a current Elder as chairperson. Along with the chair, every member of Session is required to be on at least one of the commissions. It is our hope that this new model will help streamline our processes, minimize the busywork, increase our commitment, and empower us for ministry. I have included a brief description of our new commissions, along with their chairperson; so that you can know what commission is responsible for what, and who to talk to.

These are important and exciting times for our Church. May God bless the decisions that have been made by our leadership.

Grace and Peace to you,  
Andrew

**Congregational Life Commission:** (Kelly Colao, Chair)

The Congregational Life Commission oversees all things related to the ongoing life and ministry of the congregation. This includes providing for worship (the preaching of the Word, the sharing of the Sacraments, the music program), receiving members into the church (membership class, baptisms, ministry opportunities), providing for the spiritual growth of members (activities of fellowship and mutual support), providing for the gathering of God's people for prayer (intercessory prayer ministries, regular or occasional meetings), providing for special services of worship (Communion, marriages, funerals, baptisms, confirmations, healing and wholeness), and to provide for the care of one another in the family of God (visitations, etc).

**Discipleship Commission:** (Andrew Tibert, Chair)

The Discipleship Commission looks after the church in its ongoing growth in discipleship and mission. This includes providing for opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced, inviting the congregation to participate in the mission of the whole Church in the world, providing for growth through educational programs (church school, bible study, small groups, adult education), engaging the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing and reconciliation both in our community and throughout the world.

**Operations Commission:** (Scott VanBavel, Chair)

The Operations Commission oversees the day-to-day finances and facilities of the church. This includes overseeing the Sexton Ministry, performing preventative and routine maintenance of both the church and manse, provide for the upkeep of the grounds, grow the congregation in its understanding of stewardship, accurately count and record the offering, organize fund-raising opportunities, maintain all financial records, issue monthly reports, and submit an annual budget to session for approval and advises the session on our financial status.

**Support Commission:** (Marilyn Hicken, Chair)

The Support Commission looks after those ministries, programs, services, and staff that helps make everything else happen. This includes providing for the administration and care of the staff (both ordained and non-ordained), managing items of conflict, defining job descriptions, working in partnership with the Administrative Assistant to provide for the day-to-day administration of the church, organizing areas of advertising and communication (calendar, website, newsletter, publications, yellow page and community advertising), and functioning as liaison between all three congregations that currently meet at Hope Church.

## March Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Morgan
- 5 Carol-Jeanne Turk
- 10 Elisabeth Buckley
- 12 Jim Scheidt
- 18 Edith Leadbeater
- 19 Phyllis Trask
- 19 Helen Hubeny
- 20 Shannon Rivera
- 27 Rebecca Flynn
- 30 Joe Massa
- 30 Rob Weiss
- 30 Ellen Dingman