

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

April 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

Commit to Hope---Why Commit to Hope

This year the session has chosen the theme of **Commit to Hope** and I am writing to you about what that means for me. As the treasurer and part of the finance and stewardship teams you can be sure that part of it is my treasure. That however is not the whole story. When I think about **Committing to Hope** I think about this great opportunity we have to bring God's Kingdom to the World and to our family here. We each have our own special gifts and talents and together we serve for the good of all. Early in March Cyndie and I went to Kansas City for a stewardship conference. We were away for four days and during those four days many of you visited her mother in the hospital. This meant so much to Cyndie and I as Jane was in grave condition and to know that she wasn't alone during those days helped ease our minds. We here at Hope can be so giving of our selves it can be overwhelming at times.

I became a member of Hope Church in November of 2007, sometime after Cyndie. The biggest reason I waited so long was because I did not understand why it was so important to become a member of a church. Cyndie's family were members of Tower Hill when we met and got married. For the longest time her parents and those in charge of new members would push to have me join the church. I of course pushed back because of their tactics. When Cyndie asked me to attend church with her at Hope and later help with the finance committee, I did with the understanding that I wasn't joining the church, mostly because of the bad taste I had from Tower Hill. I will say that the congregation here was so open and welcoming, and not judgmental about why I was there and what I can do for them, that it made me realize what it meant to be part of this family.

I still had the question about what membership did for me and it was answered like this. Becoming a member of the church is a commitment not unlike marriage; it provides you the **privilege** of serving God and the community as a leader and an example to others. To not become a member could be likened to living together without being married. All of us here at Hope have the privilege of serving God, but beyond that we also have the privilege and responsibility of supporting His mission to the world. So I do not ask why commit to Hope but why not commit to Hope?

Thank You

Elder Scott Van Bavel

Stewardship

General giving for February	\$ 5,500.00
Short for February	\$ 4,500.00

Building giving for February	\$ 1,310.00
Short for February	\$ 750.00

Stewardship Thought for April:

A pig and a chicken were walking through a poor section of the city. The chicken said to the pig, "Look at all those hungry people! Let's give them ham and eggs for breakfast." The pig said, "Wait a minute! For you, it's a donation. For me, it's a sacrifice!"

While we may chuckle, this has real meaning. What does it mean to make such a sacrifice? In this season of Lent, we can reflect on Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us. He sacrificed all, so that we may live forever. So if Christ can do that for us, what can WE do to honor him?

Prayer for April:

Send your Spirit upon us, Lord,
To teach us to be generous –
With praise, with kindness, with charity.
You have blessed us in so many ways:
Our lives, our abilities,
Our joys and sorrows, our resources.
Help us share a portion of our gifts,
So that we may as a church realize our vision
To become united as the Body of Christ,
Dedicated to collaboration, stewardship, Peace,
justice and respect,
A healing presence guided by the Holy Spirit,
To go forth united as disciples of Jesus Christ.

A Guide to Sacrificial Giving

As you look at your own sacrificial giving, keep in mind that your gift should be a share of your resources. Stewardship calls us to return a percentage of the blessings we have been given in our own lives. If you are currently giving 2% of your income, then perhaps this year you can take a step to 3%. Many people have found that the joy of giving comes from the experience of letting God direct their financial decisions. As responsible stewards, we are asked to make God a priority in all aspects of our lives. The story of the “Window’s Mite” reminds us that it is not the size of our gift that matters as much as the act of giving.

The chart below is to assist you in this discernment process.

Weekly Tithing Example

Family	2%	3%	5%
Earnings	Giving	Giving	Giving
\$200	\$4	\$6	\$10
\$400	\$8	\$12	\$20
\$800	\$16	\$24	\$40
\$1,000	\$20	\$30	\$50
\$1,200	\$24	\$36	\$60
\$1,500	\$30	\$45	\$75
\$2,000	\$40	\$60	\$100
\$3,000	\$60	\$90	\$150

Don't Ask, "Why should we give?"

Instead ask, "Why should we not give?"

- First, we should give because we sincerely believe that God is the source of all our blessings.
- Sacrificial Giving is one of the many things generous Catholic's do—not out of law, but out of love.
- When we give to God first we are making a gift of faith, trusting God will provide for our needs.
- GOD has blessed each of us with different kinds of gifts. When we combine our gifts together, we will benefit individually and collectively as a church.

Those who make such sacrifices in gratitude to God find that:

1. their own needs are still met,
2. they are more aware of God's love and care,
3. it is easier to distinguish between needs and wants, and
4. a sense of peace comes from knowing that their gift to God is no longer just what is left over or a contribution out of habit.

Remember that we are gifted by God; respond in gratitude.

Hope Calendar

As part of our new Leadership Structure, the way we schedule our meetings and activities is changing, starting in April. There will be several ways in which you can reserve space for your meetings and activities at Hope. We have set up a new e-mail address calendar@hopepresbyterian.com, you can call Steven Buckley at 732-542-1131 and leave a message, you may leave a hand written message in the Administrators Assistant mail box at church, or you may leave a message on the church phone 732-542-0706.(However, this is not always monitored every day. You will no longer be able to write your own date on the calendar. Steven Buckley will be the only person who will do that, and in his absence, his designee. We hope that this change does not cause any inconvenience for you; in fact we are making this change to better serve our friends and members at Hope Presbyterian. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding, as we plan to better serve our congregation. Linda Morgan

STEWARD OF THE MONTH
TIM McGUIRE

By Rebecca Harris Flynn

As part of our Stewardship of the Month program, Tim McGuire recently spent a Sunday morning with our older students. Tim is the Chairman of Property and Insurance. In this role, Tim is responsible for the overall upkeep of our church building.

Tim encouraged each of our students to think about their goals and aspirations for the future as well as their current talents. He then led us on an insightful discussion about how these skills could be used in stewardship for the church. For example, the organizational skills needed for a future career in the military could be used to help organize and plan things here at the church.

Current talents as a singer could be used in our church choirs.

We learned that the same "chores" that need to be done around the house, also need to be done around the church. Things like cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, temperature control, trash removal, landscaping, changing light bulbs and cleaning the windows are all examples of building maintenance that need to be done on a regular basis. These chores may not always be fun, but just like at home, it is necessary for all members of our church family to chip in and do our part to ensure that our church home remains a warm and welcoming place where we can meet and worship. We can do this by volunteering to be a sexton or offering to help with spring clean-ups.

Tim's visit was a real treat for our Sunday School. A special thank you to Tim for a delightful and educational discussion!

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

WOW! Our **Church School Offering** from Jan through March has been \$30.00. Families, thank you for your faithfulness and the example of stewardship that you give to your children each and everyday! We are saving our resources for our next mission project.

The One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on Palm Sunday April 5th. If you need a fish bank or giving calendar please see Jean Buckley.

Come share with us! **The Church School continues to collect snacks for children served at the Eatontown Food Bank the first Sunday of each month.** Please bring your snacks to share to children through the Eatontown Food Bank. Cereals, pretzels, cookies, are just some suggestions.

A Church School teacher's dream.....to have a classroom full of students ready to learn about God's promises! We are looking forward to having you child in church school at Hope!

LOOKING FOR CAMPERS FOR Presbyterian Camp- Johnsonburg.

The Deacons were selling candy this spring and one of the purposes is to raise funds to support Hope Church kids with scholarships to camp. If you are interested in attending Johnsonburg see Jean Buckley. We are asking families to consider sending their children during the week of July 19- 25th. It is a great feeling to have other campers from your home church up with you at J'Burg. But there's no problem if you want to send you child a different week.

SSSWWWEEEEEEEEETTTT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our annual Easter Candy sale from Old Monmouth is over and we are all feasting on the rewards. Proceeds will be used to help fund our children who are going to camp this summer. Thanks to all who bought sold and ate. Our final numbers will be announced shortly.

Hope Church 2009 Directory coming in April

Steven Buckley is preparing to publish in latter April the updated 2009 church directory. Steven will have a draft copy with him at church for next few weeks. Steven is requesting that families and organizations review the draft and make corrections to their respective entries. If you are unable to be at church Steven will contact you directly to confirm the information.

Adopt-A-Highway is here again. Get your walking shoes ready and help us keep Hope's stretch of highway clean while enjoying good company and fresh air. We are meeting April 19, at 1:00 in the church parking lot. Vests, picks, and bags are provided.

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex now. Any questions see Fred Bauch.

Parent's Night Out

Parent's night out is back at Hope Presbyterian Church. All are welcome, to drop off their toddlers to pre-teens on May 8, 2009, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm. Children will play games, have snacks, and do activities under the watchful eye of our volunteers while their parents get some much needed time to themselves. Please register by Wednesday, April 22, by calling (732) 542-0706 to let us know that your children plan on attending. If you have any questions please ask Michelle Mullan. Tell a friend, the more the merrier.

Start to save all your gently used clothes, shoes, scarves, jewelry, furniture, knic-knacks, toys, athletic equipment, TV's--well you get the idea--everything you are thinking of tossing--we want it for the yard sale--MARK YOUR CLAENDARS MAY 16, FROM 9A-2P -- more info to come--

April Birthdays

- 2 Theresa Escobedo
- 2 Jolie Della Valle
- 3 Chris Scheidt
- 3 Barbara Patterson
- 5 Nancy Massa
- 7 Luke Baker
- 7 Margaret Light
- 15 Joy Dunn
- 17 Natasha Brown
- 17 Jonathan Straccia
- 26 Melissa Emmons
- 27 Billy McCabe
- 30 Brian Krajcik