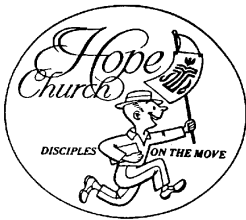


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

June 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**

Over the last few months you may have noticed that the Stewardship subject in the newsletter has been about money. Friends and Members of Hope, it is time we diffused the fear of the subject and talk more about money. The subject is not taboo, sensitive to some yes, but definitely not taboo. The Stewardship Ministry is sensitive to the current economic situation, but the time has come that all must be made aware just how this church is teetering on the edge. Times are not easy right now, but as a church we must ALL COMMIT to the ministry and daily operation of Hope Presbyterian Church. Over the next few months we will be addressing what it takes to make this church run on a daily basis and how we can find hope in these hard times. As always, if you want to talk one on one with anyone on the Finance or Stewardship Ministries, we welcome your input, ideas, and concerns. The door is always open to you and we want to hear what you have to say. We hope that what is covered in the newsletter the next few months will stimulate conversation at home and at church so that you may COMMIT to what the mission is here at Hope. Please open your minds and hearts and listen to what God has to say about how we are to give back to Him what is His to begin with.

## *Finding Hope in Hard Times*

### **1. Count Your Blessings!**

*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life span? (Matthew 6:25-27)*

We are living in very anxious times, aren't we? Our household alone has one child unemployed due to a work related injury, and one child going away to college this fall. So we have had to absorb extra bills for the one child, and help with the education of another, while maintaining our own household bills. The belt keeps tightening up, and we are running out of notches! We have watched our homes depreciate in value, watch gas prices start to rise again; the list goes on and on. At the same time, we watch the world around us lull us into believing that what we wear, drive to work, or where we live, define us as who we are. It is easy to lose sight of our true value or how blessed we are to be the beloved children of God. It is so easy to focus on what we want, rather than what we really need. Sometimes that line becomes so blurred it is difficult to discern the difference. However hard life seems, we have things we can be thankful for. This month, write a list of what you are thankful for. Talk about this over the dinner table with your family. Share your gratitude list with each other and take time each day to give thanks for all the ways God blesses you. At the same time, we also need to acknowledge our anxieties. What money worries do you have? Share them with someone you trust and most importantly share them with the Lord in prayer.

### **2. Count Your Cash!**

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "this fellow began to build and was not able to finish". (Luke 14:28-30)*

Let's face it; most of us don't enjoy budgeting. Writing down where we spend our money can be very painful, especially when we spend more than we are taking in. Budgeting is not just a case of trying to make ends meet month by month; it is also a spiritual exercise, too, revealing where our true priorities are. Billy Graham said on many occasions, "Give me five minutes with someone's checkbook and I'll tell you where their heart is." Whether we feel like we need to or not, budgeting is a good way of managing what God has entrusted to us. It enables us to take better control and make wise decisions where to allocate our money. Without a budget, we may unwittingly allow money to slip right through our fingers and very unwisely, too. Part of your budget should be your weekly or monthly commitment to the ministry here at church. Here is a link to a budget template from the National Foundation for Credit Counseling : <http://www.debtadvice.org/FinancialEducation/monthlyincome.cfm>

There are people here at Hope who work in the finance field or who have knowledge they are willing to share with you to assist you if you need it. Let us help you to diffuse your fear and get back on track.

**Prayer:** Lord God, we live in disturbing days: across the world, prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat. Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive your gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found. In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### How's our Giving?

**Giving for the Month of April**  
**General Operation: \$ 5,877.00**  
**Honoring our Debt: \$ 1,115.00**

**Deficit as of April 30, 2009**  
**General Operation: \$ 10,379.00**  
**Honoring our Debt: \$ 3,263.00**

**Required Budget Year to Date as of April 30, 2009**  
**General Operation: \$ 24,598.00**  
**Honoring our Debt: \$ 4,980.00**

**Savings used as of April 30, 2009**  
**General Operation: \$ 6,686.00**  
**Honoring our Debt: \$ 3,255.00**

**Hope Church T-shirts** are now for sale! We have various child and adult sizes left in burgundy and gray with our new logo and the winning slogans from our contest. They are \$10.00 each. Please see anyone on Stewardship or Finance if you would like one. Help represent our church and it's mission!!

Coming soon - orders will be taken for polo shirts and Hoodies. These will also be available in Burgundy or gray. Order forms will be available on our website or at the welcome center in the next few weeks.

**Parents' Night Out** has returned to Hope Church. It will be held the second Friday of each month from 6:30 - 9:00pm in the John Calvin Room. The children will play games, do crafts and activities, and hear a faith-based message under the watchful eye of church volunteers. This program is appropriate for toddlers to pre-teens and the families need not be members. If you are interested please register by calling the church at (732)542-0706 and leaving a message the Wednesday prior to PNO. Please tell your friends about this great opportunity to welcome new faces into our church. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with this program please see Michelle Mullan.

### **Drivers Needed**

We are in need of additional volunteers to assist with our transportation ministry on Sunday mornings. Currently, we have a number of volunteers who take turns bringing Virginia Lippincott and Doris Woolley to church for Sunday worship, but now we could use some extra help. If you would like to assist with this ministry, perhaps once every 6 to 8 weeks, please speak to Fred Bauch (542-3733) or Bill Heller (542-1283). Thank you!

## ***HOPE AT ALLAIRE STATE PARK***

On Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am, we will have a change of venue, and we will be holding our Services at Allaire State Park, in Farmingdale! We will have an open air service followed by a cook-out and activities in the afternoon. Bring your extended family and friends to come join in the fun! Rain date the following Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Further Details will follow. For additional information, please contact Elder Adam Hayek: [ahayek@ravewireless.com](mailto:ahayek@ravewireless.com) or 908.489.4497.

The Sunday evening study on the Phillip Yancey book "The Jesus I Never Knew" will continue this Sunday evening at 7:00 PM. The study will be hosted by a different family every week. The schedule is as follows:

Kelly & Joe Colao: 5/31/2009

Judy & Tim McGuire: 6/7/2009

Cyndie & Scott Van Bavel: 6/14/2009

Bill & Kathy Heller: 6/21/2009

Michelle & Danny Mullan: 6/28/2009

Andrew & Robyn Tibert: 7/5/2009

During the study we will watch portions of the lesson on a DVD, narrated by the author, and have discussions related to the subjects covered by the DVD session. The study is structured in such a way that you can benefit from the sessions even if you miss some of them so please plan to attend even if you can't make all 6 remaining weeks.

### "Chi-Rho Hosts First Spaghetti Dinner"

Member of our own youth group, Chi-Rho, hosted a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 9. The kids helped to sell the tickets, prepare and serve the meal, and straighten up afterwards. The events was a big success and raised over \$550. The proceeds will sponsor our participation in the annual statewide walk for the Ronald McDonald House on May 31 at Great Adventure. This walk in turn supports the families of seriously ill children staying at the three Ronald McDonald Houses in NJ (including the local one in Long Branch.) Many thanks to all who supported us!



## June Birthdays

- 1 Charles Massa
- 1 Gwynne Mahns
- 1 Marc Hunter Ellsworth
- 2 Jean Buckley
- 5 Riley Mullan
- 6 Lorraine Ransom
- 7 Betty Janin
- 7 Laura Crutchley
- 9 Susan Kalmar
- 13 Nicole Lignos
- 15 Matt Scheidt
- 16 Pat Meyers
- 17 James Van Pelt
- 24 LeeAnn Tursi
- 25 Dorothy Van Pelt
- 26 Donna Anderson Sweeney
- 27 John Schwartz