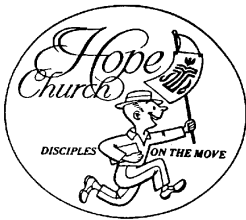


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

August 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 in All Circumstances**

In [Genesis 39:1-41:57](#), Joseph provides us with a classic example of stewardship. His life is the ultimate good news/bad news story. He is his father's favorite son, but that makes his brothers jealous. His father gives him a beautiful coat, but his brothers tear it off and sell him into slavery because of it. He finds a job working for a wealthy man who puts him in charge of his household, but his boss' wife tries to seduce him. Joseph resists, but this makes her angry enough to falsely accuse him and have him thrown into jail. In prison, Joseph meets a royal official, interprets a dream and receives a promise of parole, but the official forgets and Joseph languishes in prison for two more years. Joseph's life has more plot twists than an Indiana Jones movie.

We want to rush to the end, where Joseph is large and in charge, reconciled to his brothers, enjoying luxury, and they all live happily ever after. But Joseph models something more important for us. Stewardship happens in the meantime. Regardless of his circumstances, whether he was on an upswing or a downturn, Joseph utilized the resources available to him for great good. God was with Joseph, he was always put "in charge" ([Genesis 39:4, 22; 41:41](#)). From Potiphar's house to the prison ward to Pharaoh's Egypt, Joseph built others' fortunes by managing their resources and managed situations well regardless of his own comfort. That's what stewardship entails; and that, according to [Matthew 25](#), is what leadership is all about as well. But of what, exactly are we stewards?

Peter Drucker asserted in *Post Capitalist Society* that knowledge is fast becoming our most valuable asset. Karl Albrecht (*The Northbound Train*) tells us that, in this emerging post-capitalist society, “one of the main jobs of leadership is to help people understand the contributions they can make.” Leif Edvinsson and Michael Malone’s book *Intellectual Capital* is subtitled, “Realizing Your Company’s True Value by Finding Its Hidden Brain Power.” In *Stewardship*, Peter Block consistently equates stewardship with a leader’s commitment to develop the human resources placed in his or her charge. This representative, and by no means exhaustive, listing demonstrates that today more than ever before leaders-as-stewards must cultivate their human resources. People are a leader’s major stewardship focus.

Joseph, Jesus and contemporary leadership gurus tell us that, as leaders, we are stewards of our greatest resource – people. A view of leadership that is consistent with the Bible will focus on what God deems important. And again, that is people. Whatever else biblical leaders feel responsible for in the name of stewardship, they *must* accept responsibility for the people God has entrusted to their care.

Biblical stewardship touches every area of our lives. It requires a basic commitment to present ourselves completely to God as his servants, with no strings attached. The real issue of stewardship is whether we are administering our affairs and possessions as if they are ours or as if they are God’s. Our lives are shaped by the decisions we make, and there is no greater choice offered to us than surrender to the one who created us and knows us better than we know ourselves. The ultimate question, then, is this: Am I the lord of my life, or is Christ the Lord of my life? We will either labor under the illusion that we can control our own lives, or we will submit to the reign and rule of God. This is the difference between the great *I will* and the great *Thy will*. Whether we realize it or not, we face this decision many times in the course of each day. Our answer to this question will determine how we manage the time, abilities, money, truth and relationships God has placed under our care. A wise steward will treat things according to their true value, treasure the things God declares to be important and hold with a loose grip the things that God says will not matter in the end.

Taken from: <http://bible.org/seriespage/stewardship>

# How's our Giving

Income			
Month to Date June 30, 2009		Year to Date June 30, 2009	
Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
\$9,013.00	\$9,788.00	\$54,075.00	\$52,269.00
	\$775.00		-\$1,806.00
Expenses			
Month to Date June 30, 2009		Year to Date June 30, 2009	
Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
\$11,750.00	\$10,072.00	\$70,500.00	\$58,920.00
	-\$1,678.00		-\$11,580.00

## August Stewardship Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank you for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen.

**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.

## Jean's Collections

Sometimes I seem to be always collecting things for others. Like shoes, t-shirts and hats for Aslan's Haiti Mission. Well I want to let the Hope Church Family know that there is more than I collect. I am also asking if you would help me gather the following items.

Ronald MacDonald House of Long Branch would appreciate your aluminum tabs from soda cans and pet food. Bring them in!

The Soup Kitchen in Asbury Park always needs the plastic bags from the grocery store and clean plastic containers (32. oz) with tops from food or to go from restaurants. Bring them in!

Alveda/ Este Lauder collects and recycles any hard plastic caps from water bottles, peanut butter jars, etc. These bottle caps are many times eaten by birds and water life thinking they are food. By recycling them we are saving the lives of animals. Bring them in!

One more idea! General Mills rewards schools for sending in Box Tops for Education.

They are small coupons found on cereal and other products. Schools receive 10 cents per coupon and it really does add up for trips and assemblies. Bring them in!

Well, I have given you a lot to think about and participate in so collect and bring them in to the John Calvin Room in underneath the Gleaners Table. Thank you!

Women of Hope Church consider joining Jean Buckley  
and others for a One-day Women's Gathering, Sept. 12  
Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center  
Mt. Bethel, Pa.

Make plans now to spend the day at  
Tuscarora Inn as we welcome Susie Larson.  
She will be joined by Christina acoustic pop artist  
Sara Groves for a one-day gathering for women.  
You'll leave refreshed, encouraged and inspired.  
Tickets are \$40 and include a delicious lunch.  
Car-pooling will be available.  
See Jean Buckley.

**Parents' Night Out** has returned to Hope Church. The next PNO will be held Friday August 14th at 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.

### Summer Concert

The Praise Team will be playing their annual concert at Ocean Grove on Sunday August 23rd at 4:45 PM. Please plan on coming to see us at the Boardwalk Pavilion.

**Last call for any ink cartridges** Sunday June 28--( we now have to pay to send them making the cost above our profits) --after that please take them to your local Staples and get the credit--You can then donate the voucher you receive to the Church to purchase office supplies--

Thank you for your participation--

**The Deacon Pumpkinfest/Craft Fair** is on Saturday, September 26 from 9-2, we are looking for Crafters to participate--the cost is \$20 per space and tables are \$5 on a first come first serve basis--Please contact Nancy Oliviero at 732-571-3378 or email [noliviero@aol.com](mailto:noliviero@aol.com) for information and reservations.

### August Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Todd
- 2 Marianne Valerio
- 3 Allison Baker
- 5 Cliff Schmardel
- 6 Doreen Clark
- 6 Willie Brown III
- 7 Danny Mullan (son)
- 8 Hank Frey
- 9 Dan Cotton
- 10 Stacy Herring
- 11 Timothy Brown
- 15 Billy Ellsworth
- 18 Amanda Tursi
- 21 Maryann Morris
- 25 Ray Cass
- 27 Debbie Storm
- 28 Brenda Van Pelt
- 28 Mason Weiss