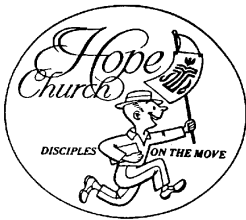


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

December 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

From Purpose Driven Connection:

[We Find Our Significance in Service](#)

by Rick Warren

“Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body” (Romans 12:5 MSG).

You are going to give your life for something. What will it be—a career, a sport, a hobby, fame, wealth? None of these will have lasting significance. Service is the pathway to real significance. It is through ministry that we discover the meaning of our lives. The Bible says, “Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body” (Romans 12:5 MSG).

As we serve together in God's family, our lives take on eternal importance. Paul said, “I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less . . . because of what you are a part of” (1 Corinthians 12:14a, 19 MSG).

God wants to use you to make a difference in his world. He wants to work through you. What matters is not the duration of your life, but the donation of it. Not how long you lived, but how you lived.

If you're not involved in any service or ministry, what excuse have you been using?

- Abraham was old,
- Jacob was insecure,
- Leah was unattractive,
- Joseph was abused,
- Moses stuttered,
- Gideon was poor,
- Samson was codependent,
- Rahab was immoral,
- David had an affair and all kinds of family problems,
- Elijah was suicidal,
- Jeremiah was depressed,
- Jonah was reluctant,
- Naomi was a widow,
- John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least,
- Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered,
- Martha worried a lot,
- The Samaritan woman had several failed marriages,
- Zacchaeus was unpopular,
- Thomas had doubts,
- Paul had poor health, and
- Timothy was timid.

That is quite a variety of misfits, but God used each of them in his service. Friends and members of Hope, God needs you to continue His work beyond the doors of our church.

December Stewardship prayer:

“Oh Lord, this Christmas season we pray for these things that we may put you first:

That we may resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene.

That we may take time to be grateful to God who is the ultimate giver of all gifts.

That as Jesus is born again in our hearts we may make a renewed commitment to faithfully and generously share our gifts, so that men, women and children in our community can feel the love of Jesus in their lives.


That we may be grateful for all the blessings that have come into our lives in the past year recognizing that God has surely given us more than enough to share.

In Jesus precious name we pray, Amen”

How's Our Giving? Effective October 31, 2009

Income			
Month to Date October 31, 2009		Year to Date October 31, 2009	
Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
\$9,013.00	\$6,789.00	\$90,128.00	\$80,221.00
	-\$2,224.00		-\$9,907.00
Expenses			
Month to Date October 31, 2009		Year to Date October 31, 2009	
Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
\$11,750.00	\$10,859.00	\$117,500.00	\$101,522.00
	-\$891.00		-\$15,978.00

BOOKS AND MORE

<p>Valid Coupon Sept 15—Dec 31 Hope Church</p> <p>Must be presented at time of purchase!</p> <p><i>Hope Church Special</i> Books N' More will donate 10% of all items sold to <i>Hope Church</i> community only when using this coupon.</p>	 <p>50% Off Everything Books for all ages Toys Gift Items & More..</p>
<p>11 Cindy Lane, Suite 5 Ocean Twp., NJ 07712 Directions: Take 35 S go right on Park Ave., make right at first light Cindy Lane</p> <p>OPEN Mon—Fri 10am—5:00pm</p>	

Coupon Valid till the end of December

THANK YOU FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons are very thankful for all who helped provide 11 FAMILIES with either gift cards to shop-rite and a turkey or a full Thanksgiving Meal.

STAFF GIFTS

It's that time of year again when we show our dedicated Staff at Hope Church how much their commitment has meant to us throughout the year.

If you would like to participate in our monetary gifts to our staff, simply put either cash or a check in an envelope marked "staff gifts" and put it in the offering plate. If it's cash, and you want credit for it, put your name on the envelope. If you make out a check, put "staff gifts" on the memo line and make the check payable to Hope Presbyterian Church.

We plan to gift these gifts to our staff during Christmas week, so **the latest we can accept your contributions is Sunday, December 6th.**

We are incredibly blessed to have such talented staff who are totally committed to Jesus and leading His people at Hope, and to guiding us as we try to reach out to the surrounding areas with the Gospel message of Good News. Please help us show them in a tangible way how much they mean to us!

CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

Your Christmas Season Will Be Missing Something Very Special If you Don't Attend
The Hope Players Christmas
Variety Show

Sun Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

There will be music, drama and a live nativity scene.

After the show there will be delicious holiday treats downstairs in the John Calvin Room as we Wait on a big surprise!

There's "Joy in the Manger"

Come and See !!

Children's One Act

Rehearsal Plans for the

Christmas Variety Show- Dec 20

The cast for the Children's one act will be rehearsing

Sat Dec 5 at 4:15-5:30 pm

Sat Dec 12 at 4:00-5:30 pm

Sat Dec 19 at 4:00-5:30 pm

Any conflicts or questions please call Jean Buckley 732-544-1131



Our Brian Merits a “Standing O”

Who: Brian Krajcik
What: Senior Degree Recital
Where: Roselle Center for the Arts,
University of Delaware

Over a dozen members of the Hope Church family journeyed to Newark, Delaware on the evening of Sunday, November 22 to support Brian at his Degree Recital, required to fulfill the Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education. We, however, were the ones who ended up being supported, blessed, and amazed by his multi-faceted display of talent. If you think you have observed Brian’s full range of talents on Sunday mornings...you would be wrong! For our erudite musicians, Brian played Bach’s *Prelude and Fugue I E Major - WTCI*, *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor – WTCI*, and *Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major – WTCI*, *Passacaglia* by Walter Piston, and *Papillons, Op.2*. Then he sang from Schumann’s *Myrten, Op.25*, *Widmung* and *Was will die einsame Trane – IN GERMAN*. Finally, as a surprise at the reception after the recital, he demonstrated his conducting skills as his fellow music majors gathered to share a lilting arrangement of *Amazing Grace* that touched the hearts and souls of all his Hope groupies. Thank you, Brian, for including us in this very special evening. We are so fortunate to experience your music ministry every Sunday through the sharing of God given talents that have been so lovingly nurtured.



Getting to Know the Care and Visitation Ministry

The newsletter is an excellent way to introduce ourselves to the rest of the congregation. We've been 'up and running' since March of this year, but I'm not quite sure the congregation is altogether familiar with who we are and what we do.

Our names are, Nancy Massa, Dorothy VanPelt, and Nancy Oliviero. Our ministry is one part of the Congregational Life Commission, chaired by Kelly Colao. The description of the four commissions is still on display on the yellow poster to the right of the doors of the John Calvin Room if you need to refresh your memory.

Our goal is to extend God's love through contacts to our church family and the community. Contacts will be through visits, calls, card, e-mails, and distribution of prayer shawls.

Areas of focus have been to send a letter of welcome to visitors who attend service, contact congregants who have been absent for more than three weeks, respond to prayer requests if indicated, contact shut-ins and administer communion if requested, respond to news of illness or need, and reach out to those in need (both members of the congregation and those who might be acquaintances, or just cross our paths) with prayer shawls.

As you can imagine, communication is key to having success with this ministry. If a situation is an emergency, or sudden, serious news, all members of Session are notified. Deacons are notified when a member of their care list is contacted or visited.

So, if you know someone who could use a prayer shawl, if you have heard that a member is ill or having difficulty, if you know who the visitor is who hasn't given their address on a blueie, let us know!!!!

Nancy Massa: 732-389-3812 nmassa@masstar.com

Nancy Oliviero: 732-571-3378 noliviero@aol.com

Dottie VanPelt: 732-695-1417 vanpe7@aol.com

Parents Night Out

Parents' Night Out for December has been moved to the third Friday of the month. It will be held on Friday, December 18th from 6:30pm to 9pm. Take advantage of this time to get your holiday shopping done! Bring a friend! If you have any questions please call Michelle Mullan (732)778-7679. Please remember to sign up by Wednesday, December 16th.

December Birthdays

- 2 Cyndie Van Bavel
- 2 Scott Van Bavel
- 2 Michelle Mullan
- 5 Marlene Cain
- 11 Joe Colao
- 15 Bob Mahns
- 15 Scott Long
- 16 Marie Butler
- 18 Rachel Hayek
- 19 Les Paul Morris
- 21 Lou Eckert
- 22 Kay Cass
- 24 Margot Eble
- 27 Leah Miller (born 2007)
- 30 Carol Fenwick