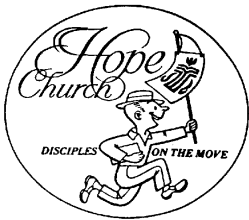


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

April 2011

Edited by
Erica Andresen

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



Easter Bunny Breakfast



April 9th 9am-12pm
\$10.00 per person 3 under and 90 over FREE
Breakfast includes Homemade French Toast, sausage, fruit salad, OJ, coffee or tea
Live petting Bunnies
Pictures with the Easter Bunny
Crafts, Gifts, Tattoos
Contact Nancy Oliviero to purchase tickets
or make reservations
noliviero@aol.com 732-571-3378

ADOPT-A HIGHWAY

Get your walking shoes ready because Adopt-A Highway clean up is here again. Please join us in Hope's service to the community. We meet on April 3, at 1:00 in the church parking lot. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Please see Fred Bauch if you need any information.

Welcome to Rev. Paul Rack!!

Starting April 1, our new Interim Pastor Rev. Paul Rack is at Hope.

Rev. Rack is also the Stated Clerk of Elizabeth Presbytery, so he comes to us with a wealth of knowledge on Presbytery polity, and with all the latest happenings in our denomination. Here is a recent biography he wrote about himself that was presented to Presbytery in preparation of his approval as our Interim:

“I was born in 1955 in Bloomfield. My dad was in seminary then, and I grew up as “preacher’s kid,” in a series of manses, while my dad built two churches in New Jersey. That was the heyday of the church when we couldn’t build them fast enough to meet the demand.

In 1972 he gave me a book called *The Cost of Discipleship*, which changed my life, made me a follower of Jesus, and turned me towards ministry. Much of my career has been a meditation on the message of that book, which is the importance of actually following Jesus, not just talking about him or mouthing doctrines about him.

Graduating from Princeton Seminary and being ordained in 1981, I was called as Pastor to three small churches on the Canadian border in New York, one of which was United Methodist. From there I moved to the Boston area where I served a small church in Waltham while I managed a theological bookstore in Harvard Square.

In 1988 I came home to New Jersey and served the church in Martinsville for 12 years. I was elected Stated Clerk of Elizabeth Presbytery in 2000, which position I continue to hold, and I served three Interim Pastorates since then: in Woodbridge, Fanwood, and Pittstown. All three are doing well now, which is how interims know if they have been successful.

I married my wife Susan in 2007. She is the Pastor of the church in Martinsville; so I moved back into my old house.

I have an adoptive son, Daniel, who is now 17 years old.

In a changing world and a church very different from the one I was born into, I hear and respond to God’s call to be a transformational/transitional leader in the church. I am interested in the missional and “emergent” movements in Christianity.

I also enjoy music, reading, writing, walking, theater, throwing a ball with my son, and baseball... the Mets.”

He will be part time holding office hours here at the church a few days a week so stop by and visit, welcome, and get to know him!

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE JERSEY SHORE WILL GRAHAM CELEBRATION

May 20- 22

Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove

Look around where you live, work, or go to school- this is your mission field. List names of individuals you know who need Jesus Christ, whom you will pray for regularly.

Look up because God changes people through prayer. Pray each day for those on your list, that God will give you opportunities to share His love with them.

Look forward by beginning to talk with each person on your list about attending the Celebration with you. Choose a specific date, pray, invite them, and bring them to the event.

Stewardship Corner....

God's Financial Best by Dr. Charles Stanley

[Malachi 3:7-18](#)

The multitudes of Bible verses that speak about money prove that God is very interested in our personal finances. Because this is such an essential element of our lives, He uses money to train us in stewardship, teach us self-control, and test our obedience to Him.

Perhaps the greatest area of the Lord's testing involves our willingness to give. Old Testament law commanded financial contributions for upkeep of the temple and support of the Levites serving there. And the New Testament tells believers to regularly set apart a portion of their income for kingdom work (1 Cor. 16:2).

However, fears and excuses sometimes keep us from faithfully carrying out this God-given responsibility. After all, giving away the money we need to pay our bills seems foolish. But the Lord promises overflowing blessings to those who obey Him in this matter. In fact, He invites us to test Him in this to see if He will prove faithful (Mal. 3:10).

By neglecting our responsibility to give to the Lord, we commit four sins. We express unbelief in His integrity and power, ingratitude for all He's given us and rebellion against His commands. And since the first part of our income belongs to Him, withholding it amounts to robbing God.

Don't think that your financial situation will somehow prove too much for God and cause Him to break His promise. The trustworthiness of His Word depends on His character and omnipotence and is unaffected by your monetary challenges. Trust Him and give generously.

Lenten Season Focus on the "I AM" Statements, 2011

(designed by the Worship Committee)

This Lent we will focus on the "I AM" statements of Jesus, to develop a closer relationship and a deeper understanding of our Lord and Savior. His "I AM" statements in John are Jesus' own way of describing Himself, allowing us to gain a deep glimpse into the heart of our Savior.

The statement "I AM" is not used in an every day sense, such as 'I am happy, or I am late.' His statements are absolutes. His "I AM" means I am, have been and always will be. They are statements that only God can make.

Each Sunday in Lent we will read a different "I AM" statement from scripture. During the week, you will be able to continue daily devotions by using these Bible references. Let's grow closer to the Lord this Lenten Season.

Lenten Daily Devotions on the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

Ash Wednesday, March 9 – "I AM" (Exodus 3:13-14)

Thursday – God reveals His new name to His people (Exodus 6:2-9)

Friday – Jesus is the "I AM" from God (John 8:25-30)

Saturday – Jesus is one with God and has come to show us God (John 8:54-58)

First Sunday in Lent, March 13 – "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11-15)

Monday – We have gone astray and need a shepherd (Isaiah 53:6)

Tuesday – We call for a Shepherd (Psalm 80:1-3)

Wednesday – God will rescue and care for us (Ezekiel 34:11-16)

Thursday – Jesus is the Shepherd for all people (John 10:14-16)

Friday – God is our Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Saturday – The Shepherd will always be with us (Matthew 28:20)

Second Sunday in Lent, March 20 – "I am the Gate" (John 10:7-10)

Monday – Sin is a wall separating us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2)

Tuesday – Jesus is the curtain opening the way to God (Hebrews 10:19-23)

Wednesday – Jesus is the one way to God (Romans 5:12-17)

Thursday – Jesus, as the gate, protects us from evil (Revelation 22:14-15)

Friday – Jesus is the one and only way (Matthew 7:13-14)

Saturday – The door is narrow (Luke 13:22-30)

Third Sunday in Lent, March 27 – “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35,48-51)

Monday – We hunger and thirst for Jesus (Psalm 42:1-5)

Tuesday – Strive for heavenly food (John 6:27-29)

Wednesday – Jesus is the bread God gives (John 6:31-33)

Thursday – Jesus is the bread that gives life (John 6:53-58)

Friday – When we partake of the bread, we grow in Christ (1Corinthians 11:23-26)

Saturday – We must accept the bread and believe (James 1:6-8)

Fourth Sunday in Lent, April 3 – “I am the Light of the World” (John 8:12)

Monday – God is light. Jesus is the light that unites us with God (I John 1:5-7)

Tuesday – The light of Christ show us what God is like. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Wednesday – The light of Christ reveals right from wrong (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Thursday – The light of Christ brings life and it is victorious (John 1:4-5)

Friday – The light of Christ leads and guides us (Psalm 43:3-4)

Saturday – We, too, are lights for the world (Matthew 5:14-16)

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 10 – “I am the True Vine” (John 15:1-5)

Monday – God’s community was His vineyard, but we have turned astray
(Isaiah 5:1-7)

Tuesday – We call on God to save us (Psalm 80:8-9, 14-19)

Wednesday – Abide in Christ, love one another, bear fruit (John 15:7-17)

Thursday – Bear fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Friday – If we abide in His word, we will be His disciples and know the truth
(John 8:31-36)

Saturday – God’s word remains forever and we should abide in it (I Peter 1:22-25)

Palm Sunday, April 17 – “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: (John 14: 1-6)

Monday – God will show us the way (Psalm 25:4-5, Psalm 32:8)

Tuesday - Follow God’s way (Psalm 119:9-16)

Wednesday – Jesus brings truth (John 1:14-17)

Thursday – Jesus is truth, come to know Him in truth (Ephesians 4:20-24)

Friday - God gives life (Psalm 36:5-9)

Saturday – Jesus offers us abundant life (John 10:9-10)

Easter Sunday, April 24 – “I am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:20-27)

He is Risen Praise the Lord

CAMP JOHNSONBURG 2011 SUMMER CAMP BROCHURES HAVE ARRIVED!

The 2011 Camp Johnsonburg Camp brochures are available from Jean Buckley or at the church welcome center. Open Houses are planned for April 9, and May 14th. The camp’s mission is “to create a place apart where all people can experience God’s love in a welcoming Christian community” and they have been doing it for over fifty years.

All ministry Is interim ministry

Written by PAUL F. RACK

Monday, 07 March 2011 16:07

Jesus comes into the world for healing, liberation, and deliverance ... all of which mean change. He empowered people to think and act in ways that expressed the kingdom of God, a reality very different from what prevails in society. Jesus was about transformation, not stability.

The time in which we live is also characterized by pervasive changes. The old cultural paradigm has gone, and the new hasn't yet gelled into a recognizable form. Our whole world is in transition; these days everything is "interim." Change is now our cultural context and we have to adapt to it.

This environment of comprehensive change affects our churches. For one thing, the shifts we are going through mean that we are losing the old model of the "permanent" minister. Because we live in a culture of transition, all ministry today is transitional; it necessarily has a provisional and "between" quality. The great value of interim ministry is that it has always addressed issues of transition in congregations. There are therefore many lessons we may learn from interim ministry that apply to all ministry in a time of change.

At the same time, these changes require that we rethink interim ministry itself. Our traditional understanding of interim ministry was built on the assumption of a temporary period of transition between two stable states. The goal was to get a congregation through this period of flux and arrive at a time of stability again, with a new pastor.

But that model does not account for either the transformational character of Jesus' mission or the changes affecting our culture generally. For the sake of an effective ministry in Christ's name, every minister needs to be equipped and able to keep positive change and adaptation happening. At its best, interim ministry shifts a congregation's focus from past to future and opens up a congregation to the new things the Holy Spirit is doing, and will continue to do, among them. Churches thrive when they lose the assumption that the transition time is temporary and that stability is the goal.

Interim ministry is the best source we have for managing change in the church. Effective interim ministry helps churches to see a time of change as a gift from God that makes them better able to undertake mission in Jesus' name.

Here are the traditional interim tasks, reframed in a way useful to all church leaders in a changing world.

1. Coming to terms with history

This is the first interim task. A church in transition has to establish its independent identity by evaluating and reconsidering its own past and story. This often meant a reappraisal of a congregation's roots and heritage. The church was encouraged to develop a longer view of itself beyond the circumstances of the most recent pastor.

In a time of radical transition and change, however, our history is not necessarily a positive thing to get in touch with. Many churches are so cognizant of their heritage that they lose sight of the world they are situated in today. “Coming to terms with history” now demands a more critical look at a church’s past. The entire history of our churches was in an obsolete historical paradigm. The question remains as to what value much of that history has for us today.

Unless we sever the chains tying us to the dead weight of our past, the church is like the nursing home patient who still thinks it’s 1956 and has clearer memories of those days than of the present faces of his grandchildren.

2. Discovering a new identity

A church in transition must also have a clear understanding of its present situation. Thus the second interim task had to do with a church’s identity and context, usually focusing on gathering accurate demographic data. The idea was to wake a church up to the changed and changing character of its environment.

But this approach still ignored a more important and primary theological question: “Who are we, and what is God calling us to do, as God’s people now?” Effective ministry now involves asking where our passion as followers of Christ meets the pain of a broken world. Churches bring God’s healing and transforming energy into the places of greatest need, mainly by supporting and encouraging the diverse discipleship of their members.

Since transition is now our context, churches will want to evaluate their mission continually. Today, all pastors, not just interims, have to help congregations locate, articulate and activate how they participate in God’s mission.

3. Shifts of power or leadership

A change in pastoral leadership means big changes in non-pastoral leadership as well. Therefore, the third interim task paid particular attention to developing new leaders in the church.

Interims have always known that effective new leaders are open to a different future. Openness to the new is now a constant necessity. Congregations have to recognize and empower new leaders all the time. Once God places something on our hearts, it is imperative that we have the space to turn that calling into a ministry that attracts support and impacts the needy world. Thus it is the Holy Spirit, not an institutional structure (like a nominating committee or a session), that creates leaders in the church.

The very character of leadership in the church is flattening and spreading out. Our top-down, centralized systems of organization are being replaced by organic networks, which empower people to follow their own callings. Authority is now broadly welling up from God’s spirit working in people, rather than coming down in a focused stream from a hierarchy or

bureaucracy.

This new model of leadership actually takes the priesthood of all believers more seriously. Training in seeking, finding, and implementing a calling from God is something that engages all God's people. The church becomes a place of encouragement and feedback as followers of Jesus put to work in the world what God is calling them to do.

4. Rethinking denominational linkages

When churches go into transition, the denomination sees it as an opportunity to exert its influence and remind the congregation of their connection. So, the fourth of the traditional interim tasks was to reintegrate the church to the denominational structure, tradition and resources, thereby strengthening linkages with the wider church.

Denominations are on very shaky ground these days. Too often denominational structure is a gauntlet of inertia, suspicion, old habits and entrenched interests that must be navigated by a church seeking support in doing anything innovative, different or "outside the box" in ministry.

Presbyteries are learning to put the health, needs and mission of congregations ahead of the presbytery's own issues. Perhaps, in our context of wall-to-wall change, it would also be fruitful to help churches find and develop new networks for effective, transformational and creative ministry, even across denominational lines.

We see this task in terms of all ministry in the development of productive and creative relationships, both within and beyond the boundaries. A pastor must have the skill and connections within the denomination to shake loose resources and change restrictive policies. In addition, the pastor must learn to build ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.

5. Commitment to a new future

Transitional ministry brings a congregation through change so it is ready to accept new leadership with enthusiasm. In traditional interim work, the focus gradually shifted to preparing the congregation to receive the new pastor. Interim ministry thus has an inherent focus on the future. The most effective interims are able to bring a congregation past the sense of temporariness and inspire the people to an openness to change that becomes part of the church's ongoing identity.

The insight that "all ministry is interim ministry" means that even "permanent" pastors are called to have the orientation towards the future that good interims have. In short, all pastors will want to find the courage to be active change agents, leading the people of God into a new future. In practice this entails a kind of ruthlessness about ridding ourselves of whatever holds us back from effective mission in Jesus' name today.

These tasks are not five discrete and successive "steps" so much as aspects of a comprehensive approach to ministry and mission. Churches need to pay attention to all of them, all of the time.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

SHARING BRINGS JOY. TO OTHERS

Dear Patrick and Heidi,

I would be my pleasure to round up some original card and send them to your niece!!!! I happen to be a pre-school teacher

of 14 delightful kids and you can only imagine the art work that they do! Also I teach two Sunday school classes on Sunday.

One is for my Presby. Church and the other for a Korean Congregation that uses our building. See how many cards I can get down to Florida!

I Volunteer monthly through my public school at Monmouth Medical Center....tutoring kids in the hospital. So I can imagine what

it is like hanging out there for 5 weeks. I meet the neatest kids..... I feel blessed after I leave the hospital!

I hope for the best and pray for the two of you!your Grandma told me about your up coming tour to Germany. Also that Heidi had lived overseas

I will miss her being in Neptune... She has been a prayer warrior for me and my family over these years.

On 3/18/2011 7:47 AM, Facebook wrote:

facebook

[Patrick](#) sent you a message.



Patrick Derr March 18, 2011 at 10:47am

Subject: Our niece

Hey,

As most of you know our (Myself and Heidi) niece is having a bone marrow transplant. She's is having a rough time and needs a little extra encouragement. If you would like to send her a card to help out a little with this that would be awesome. She will be in the hospital for the next 5 weeks, then at the Ronald McDonald house in Jacksonville. If you want to send a card, Payton can only have paper because it doesn't carry germs. And she LOVES to get them.

Payton Gripp

Ronald McDonald House

824 Childrens Way

Jacksonville, FL
32207

You have 68 new notifications. Visit Facebook now to see what's happening with your friends.

To reply to this message, follow the link below:

http://www.facebook.com/n/?inbox%2Freadmessage.php&t=1937494482735&mid=3ed4369G3e4ef78eG265b049G0&bcode=RWLW3Jir&n_m=jmbuckley%40monmouth.com

The message was sent to jmbuckley@monmouth.com. If you don't want to receive these emails from Facebook in the future, please follow the link below to unsubscribe.
<http://www.facebook.com/o.php?k=0ec724&u=1045362574&mid=3ed4369G3e4ef78eG265b049G0> Facebook, Inc. P.O. Box 10005, Palo Alto, CA 94303

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 9.0.894 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3519 - Release Date: 03/20/11
15:34:00

, TO GOD, AND TO US.

In 2010 we witnessed devastations that left us counting the seconds, minutes, and days. The earthquake in Haiti lasted for over forty seconds, the Gulf Coast oil spill went on for three months, and Chile's earthquake occurred for about ninety seconds. In sixty minutes of **One Great Hour of Sharing** we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Immediately after the recent Japanese disaster the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance sent \$100,000 from **One Great Hour of Sharing** funds to help in the initial response in cooperation with our ecumenical partner Church World Service.

The Lenten season the offering will be collected Palm Sunday. Your gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** mean that you, too, are present, bringing healing and hope to some of the world's most desperate situations. Never underestimate what a difference you can make. Let us thank God for giving us the opportunity to share our gifts generously. Envelopes will be available in the pews.

April Birthdays

- 2 Jolie Evans
- 3 Chris Scheidt
- 3 Barbara Patterson
- 5 Nancy Massa
- 5 Jim McNicholas
- 7 Luke Baker (born 2005)
- 7 Margaret Light
- 15 ***Fred & Maryann's anniversary (5 years in '07)***
- 17 Natasha Brown
- 26 Melissa Emmons
- 27 Billy McCabe
- 30 Brian Krajcik