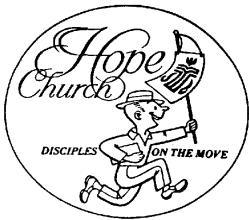


HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

August 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

Operations Commission

Finance Ministry

Well after 6 months here is the financial status of Hope Church. Our projected income for the calendar year is \$90,000 and we have received just over \$47,000 at the end of June, and an additional \$3,500 in memorial gifts. Our projected spending for the calendar year is \$111,000 and we have spent through the end of June only \$45,000. This has left us with a net of \$5,500 and no money drawn from our savings so far this year. Some of our savings have come from the lower cost of a part time interim pastor, limited church staff and lower utility cost for the manse. Some of these costs may change and increase in the future as we continue to look for our next called pastor and with ongoing changes in our musical staff, but we will monitor them closely and make adjustments as needed.

Property Ministry

In the first 6 months of the year we have made some needed repairs to the church, including new facets in the ladies' and men's rooms as well as repairing the toilet valves. A filter was added to the water line to remove any sediment which had been causing the toilet valves to hang up and not shut off. The front ramp and stair has had all of the cracks repaired and the handrail repaired. Some items which will need to be completed this fall are a full cleaning of the manse and painting the ramp and front of the church were the repairs have been made. We would like to ask that anyone wishing to help with these or any other projects please contact Scott Van Bavel (contact info below).

Stewardship Ministry

Hope Now with Long-Term Rewards

by Rick Warren

"Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and also we will possess with Christ what God has kept for him! For if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory! I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us." Romans 8:17-18 (TEV)

A Harvard study found that the more long-term your thinking is, the more successful you will be in life. And the more short-term your thinking is, the less successful you will be.

Unsuccessful people only think about the here and now – what feels good now, what is nice now, and what gives results now. But if you think in the long-term, you will have greater success, because you are willing to put up with short-term pain to gain long-term benefits.

The reason America is in the financial mess it's in right now is because of our inability to delay gratification. We don't know how to say no. We say, "I want it and I want it now, even if I have to charge it and can't pay for it," and the debt has caught up with us. That's what little kids do. They don't know the difference between "no" and "not yet." They have to have it now.

If you want God's blessing on your life, you must focus on the long-term, not the short-term. You can't allow hopelessness that comes from short-term thinking to take hold in your heart or you will get discouraged and give up too soon.

As Christians, we have the longest-term perspective of anybody – it's called eternity – because we know life doesn't end at death. We will transition to the eternal life which is going to go on forever and ever. So we live in light of eternity, not in light of current popularity, current comfort, and current conditions.

If you are feeling hopeless because of current struggles you are experiencing, keep in mind the words of the Apostle Paul: "*[W]hat we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us*" (Romans 8:17 TEV).


In heaven, there will be rewards for you based on the stewardship of your time, money, talents, and the things that God put in your hands. Did you manage them well? Did you use them wisely? Did you live for the here and now with short-term thinking, or did you focus on the long-term and store up treasure in heaven?

LITURGISTS NEEDED - - -

Feel led to be a part of a ministry here at Hope? We are seeking people who are interested in being Liturgists at our Sunday Worship service. No experience needed, just a love to read and be part of leading our service with excitement and passion. Training will be provided. Please see Rev. Rack or Cyndie Van Bavel if you are interested. All are welcome!

Hope Presbyterian Blood Drive

As a commitment to our community, Hope Presbyterian Church will host a Blood Drive on August 28th between the hours of 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. Donations of blood are at the lowest point during the summer months and during the holidays. Our area hospitals are in critical need of this precious gift. If you or someone in your family is lead to donate on August 28th, please see me or someone on session for an application. A representative from the Central Jersey Blood Center, Sharlette Ragan, will be in church on August 7th.to address the congregation and hand out applications to anyone who is interested. They should also be placed in our bulletin. Thank you in advance to anyone who feels lead or is able to donate such a gift for our com-



August Steward of the Month
Nancy Massa

Submitted by Doris Woolley

Nancy Massa comes to my mind as she is such a hard working and dedicated worker.

Not only does she add so much to our Choir and Praise Team each Sunday, but all the children who have passed through our Sunday School have benefited from her teaching and kindness. Does anyone know how many dedicated hours she puts in visiting our shut-ins, the older members who suddenly disappear from our Morning Worship? She makes sure, even though they aren't physically able to be with us, they are still remembered.

I'm sure her loving husband and son are also encouraging her in the background.

Thank you Nancy for sharing your gifts to honor and glorify our Lord!

My Agenda.

First of all, I will say that I have discovered Hope Church to be an amazing and surprising congregation. You have energy, you have youth, you have commitment, you have a deep faith, and you have a wonderful music program. Your leadership is upbeat and positive; plus, I noticed from my first interview that they actually seem to have a clue about where this church can go. This congregation clearly has a lot going for it. I am very glad to be here.

In my first few months with you we have celebrated a glorious Resurrection season together, and had an exciting session retreat in which we began to look ahead to some new initiatives. We have already had a number of baptisms including one adult, and we have received a whole bunch of new members. Most of this was in the pipeline before my arrival. It indicates a church full of life!

My agenda for my time at Hope will be centered on three things:

First, Scripture. I will be putting together at least one Bible study group this summer and fall, and I hope many of you will attend. The Bible is at the heart of who we are as Jesus' followers; it is in Scripture that we meet the Lord, and discerning his word for us has to be a priority as we move forward. I have also been sending out a Daily Meditation e-mail which includes readings from the lectionary for every day, along with an inspirational quote and usually a note about a particular figure from Christian history. (If you don't receive this, please let me know.)

Second, prayer. We have already had our first mid-week prayer service, centered on Scripture, some music, and a good, long time for prayer concerns. Next week we will hold a Healing Service, which I hope to do on a regular basis. Healing was the centerpiece of Jesus' ministry, and he gives his disciples a charge to heal as well. I hope Hope will be known in the future as a place for healing in the community. This emphasis on prayer should help us become more away of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and world.

Third, evangelism. This is always a challenge for Presbyterians. There are several historical and other reasons for this, which I won't go into now. The message and Way of Jesus is good news for the world. "Evangelism" literally means "telling good news." Our ability to experience this good news in our own lives has to do with the quality of our life together as a gathering of Jesus' followers. At the same time, Jesus sends us out into the world on a mission from God, literally. That mission is to spread the good news of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ.

Obviously, there are other things I am doing as well. Pastoral care is essential; I have already been to three hospitals and one rehab facility. The worship service is always an important focus; I am already beginning to look at and plan for the Advent season and the Nativity. And finally we do have to pay some serious attention to stewardship this year. I'll have more to say on that as we move forward.

In terms of my office hours, I usually tend to be at the church on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, but this will vary from week to week. Please call if you need to see me. I work a lot from home, especially in the summer. I will happily make the 50 minute drive to meet with any of you. And I am conscious of the distance thing, so please do not hesitate to use any media to contact me. I am at 908-625-1844(for calls and texts); paulrack@optonline.net; and Facebook.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve the Lord Jesus with you.

Rev. Paul Rack

PRAYER SHAWLS

Did you know that we have a ministry that involves giving away prayer shawls to folks who are going through difficult times (either due to illness, family or job issues, or any other problem)? Did you know that we have a few faithful knitters, but most all of the shawls are made by one person? And we have a few faithful folks who donate yarn, but we can always use more. SO.....if you can knit or crochet, and have some spare time (even sporadically), and would like to help out this important ministry, please see Nancy Massa. Any donations of yarn or already made prayer shawls are very gratefully accepted.

NOTE: Nancy has been especially busy making shawls for the upcoming Healing Service on August 2nd, so she would really appreciate some help! Thanks very much!

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN WORSHIP

Have you noticed that our youth have been participating in worship by bringing the Bible forward to place on the Communion table prior to worship? They will be participating in various other ways, also, when Sunday School resumes in the fall.

WORSHIP AT ALLAIRE COMING UP

Our annual outing to Allaire State Park for Sunday morning worship is coming up! Plan to join us at the park on August 14th. The service will be a bit later than our usual 9:30 to allow folks to drive down there... time to be announced. We will have our worship service (bring a lawn chair!) with pretty much the normal order of worship, Praise Team will be singing, the Word will be preached. After worship, we will all gather for a BBQ under the pavilion. Each family should bring a dish to share. Our Fellowship Ministry will be chairing this event, with Adam Hayek doing the cooking! In the past, if it is not too hot, we have wandered around the restored village. If you come early, Adam has breakfast all cooked and ready to serve! We always have a wonderful time, worshipping and fellowshiping together. If you have any friends who would like to join us that Sunday, they are more than welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining Hope Church? We do already have names of some folks who would like to become members, but of course all are welcome. We will be having a Membership meeting in the fall for those who are interested. In the past, this has been a couple of short gatherings, followed by the prospective members meeting with the Session of the church. If you are interested, or know of someone who is, speak with Jean Buckley and she will be sure to let you know the date and time of our upcoming meeting.

NEW ADDITION TO COMMUNION SUNDAYS

During Communion, Rev. Rack will be at a third "station (in addition to the two pairs of Communion servers) standing over by the keyboard for anyone who would like to be anointed with oil. This will not be for lengthy or involved prayer, but simply for a blessing and anointing. Anyone who is in need of a special blessing my come forward; you need not be ill. You don't even have to share what your need is! All that is necessary is a heart that is open to receive from our Lord.

PRAISE TEAM TO SING AT OCEAN GROVE AND EATONTOWN COMMUNITY DAY

Our Praise Team will be singing away from our church home on two upcoming occasions., the first for Pavilion Worship at Ocean Grove, on Thursday, August 18th, at 7PM. We have participated in this ministry for several years, and we always have such a wonderful time worshipping our Lord in this magnificent setting. We will also be singing at Eatontown Community Day on September 24th. Come join us as we reach out in Jesus Name!

August Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Todd (Jason and Jolie's son)
- 3 Allison Baker
- 5 Cliff Schmardel
- 6 Doreen Clark
- 6 Willie Brown III
- 7 Danny Mullan (son)
- 9 Dan Cotton
- 10 Stacy Herring
- 11 Timothy Brown
- 18 Amanda Tursi
- 18 *Mike and LeeAnn Tursi wedding anniversary*
- 19 *Carl & Jackie Fritsche's wedding anniversary*
- 21 Maryann Morris
- 25 Ray Cass
- 27 Debbie Strom
- 28 Mason Weiss