



discover... connections  
faith  
purpose  
belonging  
family  
discover...

JULY 2013



Hope Presbyterian Church  
1189 Hope Rd. Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
Interim Pastor: Reverend Paul Rack  
Rev. Rack: 908-625-1844 [paulrack@optonline.net](mailto:paulrack@optonline.net)  
Church: 732-542-0706  
Email: [hope@hopepresbyteriantf.com](mailto:hope@hopepresbyteriantf.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Mary Harris  
[harrismw@comcast.net](mailto:harrismw@comcast.net)  
Photography: Daniel Buckley  
[danbuckley141@gmail.com](mailto:danbuckley141@gmail.com)

## Message from the Pastor

### THE CONFESSION OF 1967.1.

I have been walking the session through some themes in our *Book of Confessions*. In June we began to look at the Confession of 1967. This document came out when I was 12 years old, and its ideas and language have shaped my own theology every since. Deeply influenced by the theology of 20<sup>th</sup> century Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, the Confession of 1967 remains amazingly current, continuing to speak to issues resonant in our day. The Confession is framed according to Paul's Trinitarian blessing in 2 Corinthians 13:13, with Jesus first, then God, and the Holy Spirit. Thus, in placing Jesus Christ first, it communicates how he sets the tone and determines the direction of Christian theology. This is the first part of the Confession, dealing with Jesus and sin. The words of the Confession are in bold (I have altered the text to make it more inclusive). My brief comments are in italics.

#### **JESUS CHRIST.**

#### **In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.**

*It is important to note that Jesus is "truly human." He shows us what God intends for humanity. The sinful manifestation of humanity we know is not "true humanity," but a distorted, disfigured, and defiled humanity. In creation, humanity was originally blessed and good. Jesus Christ reveals that goodness of who we truly are in God's eyes.*

**Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinners. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all stand convicted. God raised him**

#### **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

---

*"...the Confession of 1967 remains amazingly current, continuing to speak to issues resonant in our day"*

---

**from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.**

*(It is interesting that the confession refers to Jesus as a "Palestinian Jew," thus inhabiting both ends of today's Middle East conflict. It was written prior to the war in which Israel gained possession of the West Bank.)*

*Jesus' true humanity came instantly into conflict with the debased humanity of his time and all times. The three areas of conflict are "goodness," (that is, their understanding of what is good, including how this is worked out in morality) religious aspirations, and national hopes. These three things – morality, religion, and nationalism – that stabilize and order society are the three areas in which Jesus most directly challenged the powers of his day.*

*It is important to note that he gave himself freely and took upon himself the judgment that is the consequence of people not living up to his or their own true humanity. The authorities did not kill him on their own; he allowed it. It was, like the Exodus, God's work; the authorities, like Pharaoh, receive no credit for participating in the sacrifice.*

**God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humanity. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.**

*This important paragraph frees the church from having to work with only one "theory" of the*

*Atonement, the theological doctrine about how God saves us in Jesus. Though it is not stated here explicitly, the paragraph allows us to move away from Atonement theories that reduce God to a vindictive monster demanding his Son's blood in order to be appeased, and which also make the resurrection irrelevant. The enemy defeated by Christ is not his Father; it is the "powers of evil" represented by Satan.*

*The paragraph references the Passover, sacrificial imagery used by Jesus in John, the Day of Atonement liturgy, Jesus' own "ransom" language, and other sources. Ultimately, no single image, analogy, or theory is sufficient to completely describe what God is doing for us in Jesus Christ. These are only aids to our understanding; the real point is to live a life of reconciliation.*

**The risen Christ is the Savior for all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.**

*Jesus is not our private deity, only for Christians. He is for everybody. Those who trust in him and follow him are gathered into the reconciling community, the Church. But there is an unavoidable "universalism" in Christian faith: what God does in Christ, like everything else God does, is not limited to one segment of humanity; it concerns the whole creation and all people.*

**The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.**

*The Savior is also the Judge. God's judgment is God's salvation; God's will is that the whole creation be saved, redeemed, liberated, healed. But we may still choose death and violence, thus separating ourselves from God's love. Trusting and obeying God in Christ removes our fear of the God who redeems us.*

### **Human Sin.**

**The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes human evil as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and other people, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation.**

*Sin is a loss of true humanity. In claiming self-mastery we invariably fall into forms of alienation and violence, which lead to death and bring about destruction. To live out of synch with God's truth is to languish in falsehood and fall into extinction.*

**Wise and virtuous figures through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without his forgiveness. Thus all fall under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that**

**judgment than the one who assumes guiltlessness before God or moral superiority over others.**

*Humans are temporal and mortal beings. Everything we do and think is infected by self-interest and bias. There is no such thing as objectivity. Our perception and consciousness are always limited and tainted. In attempting to do good, we invariably and necessarily do evil. Hence our need for the higher perspective of God's love in Jesus Christ.*

**God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took on himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring people to repentance and new life.**

*To oppose God is to oppose what is real and true. It is thus to go against the grain of truth, goodness, beauty, and choose instead falsehood, evil, and ugliness. But God's love is infinite and constant, always there for us. If we insist on living in opposition to God's love, God still loves us... but we experience that love as wrath. Christ fulfills God's love in emptying himself and becoming human even to the point of suffering a human death. The Confession reminds us that Jesus is also "truly divine;" he is God-with-us. In Christ, God's life is given. Christ reveals God's true nature as this infinite love poured out for us.*

--Paul+

**A service in memory of Jim Oliviero will  
be held July 20, 10:00AM**





## ***Hope Church Trip to Blue Claws Game***

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

See Tammy Weiss for more info.

**Tuesday, July 9th** (7:05) - The first 2,000 fans will receive a BlueClaws Team Card set thanks to TD Bank, plus it's a TD Bank Senior Day Tuesday with Baseball Bingo played throughout the game.



**VS**



## **Summer Music at Hope Church**



This month, the congregation will enjoy hearing from some of Hope's soloists and instrumentalists during worship. It's an opportunity for the musicians to step out and present some new music in the service. The Chancel Choir is on vacation, but the Praise Team continues to meet on Thursday nights to practice, as they will present music throughout the summer.

**Please join the Hope Praise Team and Bell Choir at the annual Ocean Grove Concert on Sunday, July 21 at 2:00 P.M.** We will perform in the pavilion next to the beachfront. It's cool and shady under the roofed enclosure. The concert is "The Best of Hope" featuring some of our favorite hymns and praise music, including contemporary songs by Chris Tomlin, Paul Baloche, Matt Redman, Carl Fritsche, and Nancy Scharff. The Bell Choir will bring their beautiful chimes and play on the concert as well. Come and enjoy a seaside afternoon!

Later in the fall, the Hope Musicians are planning two community concerts—one on **Eatontown Community Day, September 21, and another at Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day, October 22.** We'll keep you updated about these very special music events.

If you think you'd like to make music with the Praise Team, Chancel Choir, or Bell Choir, but are a bit timid about committing to rehearsal, or just feel a little bit out of practice, I invite you to "give it a try." There is always the possibility of joining in on one or two numbers, just to see how much joy it brings you. Yes, it's true—we are having a lot of fun up there and music is a glorious way to devote yourself to worship and service.





Let everything that has breath  
*praise* the Lord. Psalm 150:6

**JUNE 30, 2013**





## BEACH BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

July is here, and it's time once again for David Cotton's Beach Bible Study, on the beach (yes, it's still there) in Ocean Grove, in the same place as always - just south of the Fishing Pier (yes, it's still there too - sort of...), from 7-8 PM, every Tuesday in July, starting July 2.

This year's theme is

### **"THAT'S NOT IN THE BIBLE? - REALLY?"**

You may be surprised at some of the sayings that are commonly thought to be in the Bible. Guess what?

They're not!!!

But wait! This is a positive study, because for every saying, what really IS in the Bible is always better than what isn't there.

Bring your Bibles, bring your beach chairs, and bring a friend. Beach Bible Study is a great, non-threatening way to invite someone who may not be comfortable coming to church, but who may be interested in hearing the Good News or learning more about the Bible.

**WHEN? 7-8 PM**

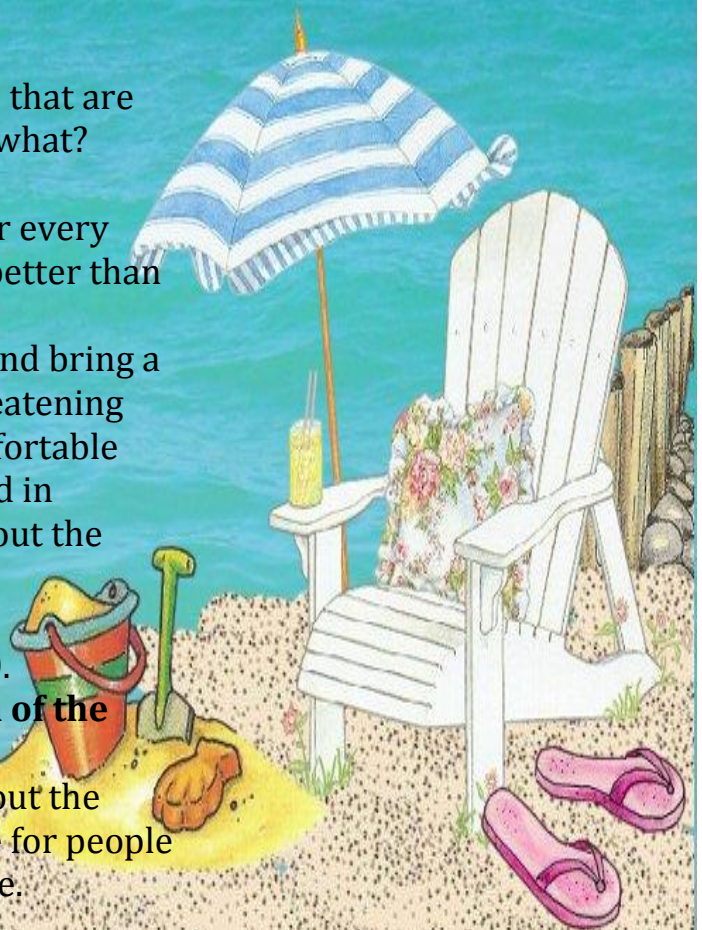
**Tuesdays in July - July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.**

**WHERE? Ocean Grove Beach, just south of the Fishing Pier & Beach Office**

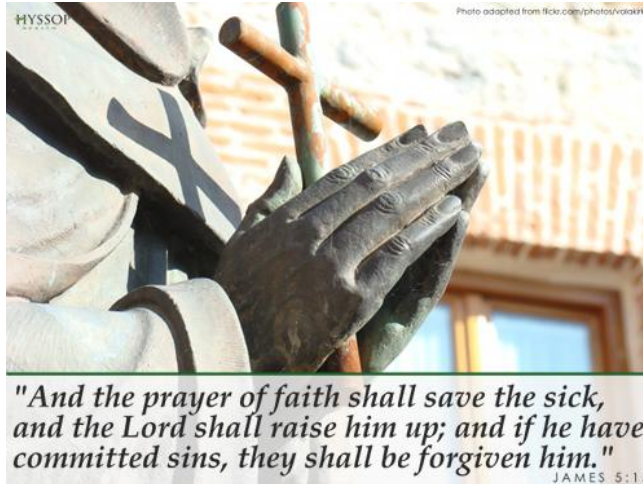
**WHAT?** A fun, fast-paced Bible study about the truths and treasures of the Bible for people of all levels of Biblical knowledge.

**WHO?** Rev. David Cotton, Pastoral Care Department Manager, JSUMC; Pastoral Assistant, First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan; Associate Trustee, OGCMA; Director of Pastoral Care, Bay Head Chapel.

**(P.S.)** (We've established a "no-fly zone" this year - you'll be happy to know.)







**HEALING SERVICE to be held at HOPE CHURCH**  
**July 30, 7:00PM**

The act of healing was extremely important during Jesus' earthly ministry: we have accounts of Him forgiving sins, casting out demons, and curing diseases of the mind, body and spirit....all various types of healing. And Jesus instructed His disciples to go out and do likewise.

Today, as in the early church, many Christian churches have continued this practice of laying-on-of-hands and anointing with oil and prayer. This is done not to fulfill some sort of magic formula, but as a means of calling on the healing power that comes only from God through His Holy Spirit....this same God who loves each one of us unconditionally and is always working to accomplish His good purposes in our lives.

Our Service will include a special time to receive prayer for healing through the laying-on-of-hands, and special music will be provided during this time so folks can also pray quietly in their pews. As always, any prayer concerns are held in strictest confidence.

Our Prayer Team is urging you to prayerfully consider attending this service. And feel free to invite anyone you know who may be interested in receiving prayer, also. And – as always – to God be the glory



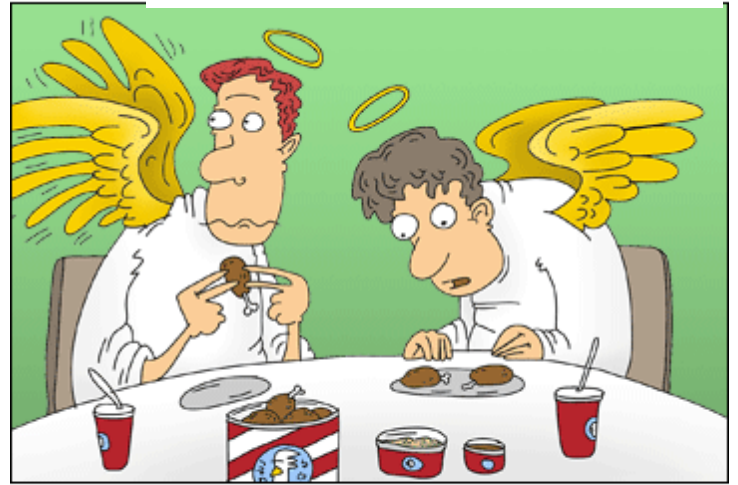
**BOSCOV's Friends Helping Friends Day is coming!!!**

BOSCOV's discount shopping passes are in and available to be sold. The discount passes are being sold for \$5 each and gives 25% off your purchases on Tues, Oct 22. The entire \$5 is a profit for our church!! We need everyone's help in selling these discount passes. It is a great opportunity to have Hope Presbyterian Church's name get out into the community as being part of 'Friends Helping Friends' day. Please see Lynda Hicken, See Kathy Heller, Nancy Massa, or Nancy Oliviero for more information, questions, and discount shopping passes. Thank you for your support with this mission.

## Upcoming Events

- **July 9, 7:05PM** Blue Claws Game
- **July 21, 2:00PM** Ocean Grove Concert
- **July 30, 7:00PM** Healing Service
- **September 21**, Eatontown Community Day concert
- **October 22, all day**, Boscov's 25% off shopping with coupon
- **October 22, 7:00PM** Friends Helping Friends Concert at Boscov's
- **November 2**, Beauty and the Beach Race

REVEREN Copyright © 2011 The Zondervan Corp.



WEIRD ... I USED TO LOVE WINGS BACK ON EARTH

### Save the Date Sat. Nov. 2, 2013

**The Beauty and the Beach Race/ Walk** will be back **Sat. Nov. 2, 2013**. It is a great day for women of all ages. It is also a rewarding day for **Aslan Youth Ministries**. Located along the ocean in Long Branch the Race in Nov. 2012 was stormed out by Sandy. Our entrance fee goes to Aslan where lives are changed through the message of the Gospel in youth ministry, a family outreach for over 35 years in the immediate shore area. **Women, there is a great t-shirt, a necklace and chocolates at the end of the race. Ask Kelly Colao or Jean Buckley for more info.**

	July
6	Robert Nuckle
9	Megan Tursi
10	John Waldron V
14	Doris Woolley
15	Adam Hayek
16	Karen Schwartz
16	Nicholas Hernandez
18	Bristol Van Bavel
19	Michael Morgan
19	Carl Fritsche
21	Mike Tursi
22	Betsy Fee
27	Dave Caffyn
28	Tim McGuire
31	Danny Mullan



	August
1	Kyle Todd
6	Doreen Clark
6	Willie Brown III
7	Danny Mullan
11	Timothy Brown
18	Amanda Tursi
21	Maryann Morris
25	Ray Cass
28	Mason Weiss