



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSERY



NOTES OF HOPE

A monthly publication to keep us informed.

November 2006

Edited & Published
by The Buckley
Family

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

Invite them to
become part of his
family

Instruct them in the
Scriptures

Include them in the
celebration of wor-
ship, and

Inspire them to
serve God according
to their gifts

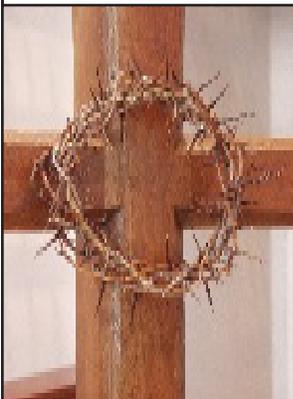
As I pass the torch to Andrew, I can't help but look back and look forward too. We've been on a journey together, and we've learned some things along the way. It took a while, but I believe we have found a blend of traditional and contemporary elements that make our worship service unique and personal and meaningful. We're growing because God is leading people to us who are finding our worship of Jesus Christ and our fellowship in His Spirit to be just what they were looking for.

Why? More than once since I've been your pastor, people from other churches have marveled at the scope of participation in music ministry for a church our size. It is both amazing and wonderful. We've become more missions minded, with special emphasis on local outreach to our surrounding communities as well as global missions. Christian education is thriving as both children and adults have opportunities to grow in their relationship with Jesus and His church. Our people are active and involved in a variety of areas of service. The Deacons are a strong witness to the call of Jesus to serve, and the Session has a great mix of people who can share and discuss and even disagree without animosity or anger, but with an eye toward following the Lord's path and doing his will.

In short, Hope is healthy and growing. We still have some challenges ahead as we take this step of faith, but I believe with all my heart that Hope will continue to grow and thrive to the extent that **you** continue to grow in your love for Jesus Christ and in your relationship with him. That kind of faith and love are contagious. Your passion for Jesus and compassion for one another will be the keys to the future.

I have been blessed to be your Pastor these past four years. It's been a privilege to get to know you and to share so many moving experiences of worship and service. We've gone through some difficult times, but we've never lost our energy for building God's kingdom or enthusiasm for sharing God's Word. Thank-you for loving Joanne and me and for embracing our family as your own. It's been great, but even greater is the truth that Christ is with us - and that with Him, **the best is yet to come!**

Our prayers and our hearts will be with you all.
Blessings! David



To the members and friends of Hope Presbyterian Church, I write to you today with a warm heart, for I have a profound awareness of how God has moved mightily and faithfully in the lives of both Robyn and me, and this congregation, to bring us all to this place. And I must say, Robyn and I both have a growing excitement and sense of anticipation for the life in ministry that God has called us to here at Hope.

Let me just say that while I do not know everyone personally (yet), I am looking forward to being your pastor. What is more, I look forward to those opportunities in which I might meet you face to face and hear some of your story. While I know that this sort of thing takes time, I am encouraged by the interactions that I have already had with the Search Committee and various other members of the leadership here at Hope. Just going by these few folks, one is instantly aware that God has blessed this congregation with an abundance of warm, inviting, and genuine people. I feel very fortunate.

I also feel fortunate that I have the opportunity and the privilege to continue to build on the foundation laid by David Cotton. It's not often that a new pastor gets the chance to come into a situation that is so healthy, and yet has the potential for further growth. Much of this, as I am sure you well know, can be attributed to how God has worked in and through the leadership that David has provided. For this I am also grateful.

Finally, I would share with you that I am most excited about becoming your pastor because of the deep sense of call that I felt towards this church family. From the moment I set foot inside that sanctuary I had a sense God was leading me here. While I know that each of us may feel some form of tension in what is to be a time of transition right now, and the future may seem somewhat unclear, it is this sense of calling, and the certain knowledge of God's faithfulness, that gives me an excitement for what is before us.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.
Andrew Tibert

An UPDATE from the DPNC

By the time you read this, we will most likely have had our Congregational Meeting, and had the chance to vote on our new pastor nominee and his salary package. All of your DPNC is very excited about our nominee! We have worked very hard during our search process, and feel we have the candidate that God has appointed for Hope Church. But I must admit that I have many ambivalent feelings swirling around in my soul. I am so very excited, and yet I must allow myself time and space to grieve. This transition we are processing through at Hope is a bit different than it is sometimes when a church goes from one pastor to the next. In our case, we are saying goodbye to a pastor and his family that we have come to love and respect deeply.

Pastor Cotton has repeatedly said that this is what he has been working toward during these last four years: to get us to a point of health and vitality for a full-time pastor to take over the shepherding. And God has worked through him mightily! Even though I have known that at some point we would be where we are now, this knowledge is not making it very much easier to process through the grief of saying "goodbye".

An UPDATE from the DPNC Continued

I think I will try to concentrate on the fact that it is time: it is time for Rev. Cotton to get his life back, to enjoy time with his precious family. And it is time for Hope to move forward with a full-time pastor.

We know that our relationship with David and his family will not end; true friendships, bonded in Christ, are not influenced by circumstance or dictum: our love will go with them. Thank you, David, for all you and your family have given to Hope over these years. May God richly bless you as you continue on the path He has chosen for you. We love you very much! And our prayers will go with you...

But let us also remember this: as we lift up our previous pastor in prayer to our Heavenly Father, let us also lift up our new pastor and his wife. Andrew has chosen to follow an act that is pretty hard to follow. May our God richly bless him and his ministry here among the people of Hope. Andrew, we welcome you and Robyn with open arms! And we look forward to working with you for the furtherance of God's Kingdom in the Tinton Falls/Eatontown area!

Meet some of the newest members of Hope. To put names to faces check out the 'Faces of Hope' in the John Calvin Room.

Ernest & Evalyn Watts reside in Wall in a home they bought for their retirement while they lived in Scotch Plains. He is a retired financial analyst, she a retired secretary. They have four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. During the week, they are in Baltimore, taking care of their grandchild while their daughter is completing her courses as a physician's assistant. They make it a point to get back to NJ on weekends for the services at Hope. Ernest and Evalyn (yes, that's the correct spelling) first became acquainted with our church through a friend whose daughter had been a patient at Jersey Shore. Their friend had become acquainted with the chaplain there (our own Rev. David Cotton). And raved about him to the Watts. When they moved to the shore, they made it a point to find the church where Rev. Cotton was pastor. Their first Sunday at Hope was during Rev. Cotton's vacation, but they were impressed with the speaker that Sunday (Carl Fritsche) and have rarely missed a Sunday since.

Debbie Strom moved to Ocean Township about five years ago. She has a daughter and two grandsons in Little Silver, a son in Highlands and a son in California. Debbie is employed at Meridian Health Affiliated Foundations in Neptune. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer about four years ago, she felt the need for "something greater than myself." Driving by our church, she said the name Hope "seemed like an omen" and she started attending worship services. She met Elder Kelly Colao, a fellow breast cancer survivor, who was "supportive and gave me strength." After going through "the whole gamut" of treatments, Debbie's health is good.



The Power of a Simple Gift

For the second year our congregation is participating in Operation Christmas Child, part of Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse mission network. Last year we joined with over 7 million donors to provide shoe boxes filled with age appropriate items for girls and boys living in critical circumstances around the world. Dolls, stuffed animals, hard candy, soap, toothpaste, cars, and rubber balls were our ways of sharing and reaching out in the name of Jesus Christ. Some families included pictures, prayers, or personal notes. The Crutchley family even received a letter back from the minister who distributed their shoe box.

Children are offered Gospel storybooks in their own languages and invited to learn more about Jesus through a follow-up discipleship program. The Good News reaches a child, a family, a village.

Please join with us this November 19 when we dedicate each "mission in a box" during the worship service. Remember in your prayers the children and families who receive the boxes, the workers who pack them for shipment, and those who deliver them across the world.

Brochures with box labels and donation envelopes are available in a basket on the counter in the narthex. Visit www.samaritanspurse.org for more information. If you have questions, call Kathy Heller 732-542-1283.

Let your family experience the joy of giving in the name of Jesus Christ!

A Catalog of Perfect Gifts

Are you looking for a unique gift, sure to be remembered this Christmas? Maybe you need a gift for the person who seems to have everything, or the person who insists she's over cluttered already. Well, a very special catalog has made an appearance in our church mailbox... *Samaritan's Purse 2006 Christmas Gift Catalog*. You will be amazed at how far your money will go! (Not something we say very often when Christmas Shopping.) Through Samaritan's Purse, you can give meaningful gifts in honor of relatives and friends or as a family project. A donation of \$45, for example, can provide 20 New Testaments in a local dialect, or for \$35 you can guarantee an orphan a month's worth of lodging, meals, healthcare, and education. Only \$15 will provide a student's tuition and school supplies for a month, essential in breaking the cycle of ignorance and poverty. A hungry baby can be fed for a week with just \$9.

As you can see, an array of opportunities awaits you in this catalog. As Franklin Graham says, "What better way to thank God for the gift of His Son than to bring this Good News to those living in despair? This Christmas, why not provide healthcare for mothers and babies, clothe a child, give warm blankets to the shivering, or equip missionaries to spread the Good News? Please see the catalog on display in the narthex or go to [www. Samaritanspurse.org](http://www.Samaritanspurse.org).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2006

Use a regular sized shoebox or a plastic box of the same size. If you wrap the shoebox, the lid and bottom must be wrapped separately.

Cut out the label on the back of the brochure for girl or boy. Check the age category.

Pack the box tightly.

If possible put \$7 in an envelope or write a check to Samaritan's Purse, attn. Operation Christmas Child.

You may include a prayer, note or family picture.

Put a rubber band around the box and bring it to church by Nov. 19.

CONTENT IDEAS

Hard candy, gum, lollipops
Stickers, colored pencils, crayons, notepads
School supplies
Plain t-shirts, socks
Rubber balls, simple games
Stuffed animals, plastic animal figurines
Flashlights with batteries
Picture books, coloring activities
Washcloth/ soap, brush/comb, toothbrush/toothpaste
Small tissue packs
Legos
Flashlights
Baby dolls

DO NOT SEND:

Chocolate candy or anything that will melt in the heat
Liquids...shampoo, drinks, lotions
China or glass figurines
Fragile toys or toys with lots of small parts
Guns or military figurines, anything with a war theme
Vitamins, cold medicines, etc.

Deacon News

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching and the Deacons are again asking you to show your love and generosity by providing Thanksgiving feasts to our families in need.

The white 'giving tree' in the Narthex is beautifully adorned with footballs, which contain items needed for the feasts.

Please take one, two or a few footballs and return the items that you have purchased on Sunday, November 19th. The Deacons will assemble the feast baskets and deliver them that day.

We continue to provide these dinners for the four families who were introduced to us from Love, Inc., the new friend in need we met this summer, and again this holiday, we will also be providing for three of our church families.

You, the Hope Church Family, are always quick to respond with kindness and caring. The Deacons thank you.

THANKSGIVING DEVOTIONS

Here are some ideas, thoughts and Scriptures to use in your devotions at this season of Thanksgiving. They can be used with a family group or if you are alone.

READ:	Psalm 34	Psalm 103	Colossians 3:17
	Psalm 107:1	Psalm 89:1	I Thessalonians 5:18
	Psalm 40:5	Psalm 106:1	Luke 17:12-16

THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS AND GIVE THANKS:

Be sure to serve some spiritual food from God's Word with your Thanksgiving Dinner.

~Mother Jones

If we would praise God more, we would have more to praise Him for.

Cultivate the ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE.

From the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee

Family Advent Wreath Making Saturday Dec. 2nd, 2006 @ 2pm

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee invites you to participate in a family event to make your own Advent Wreath. In the past, the children have enjoyed helping to light a candle on our church wreath each week during Advent. Why not make one for home to light each day to remind us of this holy time of year? Space is limited. We have room for up to 50 people, so please sign up early. A sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex. Sign ups close November 26th or when space is filled.

****The committee is providing 10” Styrofoam wreaths, hooks for decorations, and candle holders only.** Included will also be a Family Advent Book including activities and readings for each day of Advent. Families will be responsible for their own greens (either real or artificial), decorations and candles. Sunday December 3, we will have a moment in worship to light each wreath and dedicate them.

Refreshments will be served. Please come and enjoy some family fellowship.

Advent Family Service and Pot Luck Dinner

Every year in December we plan a family Advent Service which is followed by a wonderful Pot Luck Dinner. We can't give you the exact date when this will happen this year (it's tentatively planned for the 10th, but that might change). It might change, because our new pastor will be ordained and installed sometime in December ... and as of yet, as we go to print, we don't know that date. Monmouth Presbytery's Committee On Ministry weighs in on this, so we can't move ahead with plans until everyone is on board. As soon as we know the details we will let you know either via email, telephone or snail mail.

AN UPDATED MESSAGE TO WORSHIP AIDES:

The Closer's responsibilities have been tweaked a bit. Instead of vacuuming the John Calvin Room, we're asking that the garbage be emptied from the bathrooms and the John Calvin Room after coffee hour is over. Closers no longer have to lock up the church and turn out the lights, because members of the Korean congregation begin arriving at the church before our choir rehearsal is finished.

Coffee hour hosts are responsible for the vacuuming and wiping all the counters and table tops with Clorex Wipes. Not much of a change, but a necessary one to ensure we keep things clean and to avoid unwelcome critters invading the downstairs room.

Message to Sextons: A new Swiffer Wet Mop is now available for mopping the restrooms. No more neep for Bucket and mop! Yeh!

Ushers are requested to be at church by 9 o'clock so as to be ready to welcome worshippers who arrive early, and to make sure that everything is in place, enough "bluies" in the pew racks, candles lit on the communion table, inserts in all the bulletins, etc.

Thanks to all our Worship Aides for your ministry as unto the Lord.

Bell Choir Notes

The bell choir is beginning another season with a new member, a returning member, and a lot of fun, new music. Stephanie is learning to ring B5 & C6 and will hopefully be comfortable to ring in a worship service sometime soon. We are delighted that Mary Harris has returned, taking over the B3 & C4 in a three-way shuffle with Steven and Bill Heller (Who wanted more notes). School and work schedule overload have moved Erika and Elisabeth to alternate status and we are also honored to have Jonathan offer to be an occasional alternate. Jonathan has considerable experience ringing with the Tower Hill bell choir.

We have purchased several new arrangements, including one level 4 arrangement that was written for the Raleigh Ringers (one of the worlds premier bell choirs). We hope to have it ready for Christmas. We also have a new arrangement for Thanksgiving, which we will be ringing in a few weeks.

We are still one ringer short of a full compliment so if you think you might be interested please do let us know.

The Sunday Before Thanksgiving

Lots of good things are going to be happening on Sunday, November 19th.

- The Bell Choir will be playing a brand new song in the worship service that day that they're excited about and want us to hear;
- The Deacons will be receiving our food donations, assembling and delivering feast baskets to several families;
- We'll be bringing our Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child shoe boxes full of gifts and goodies for children around the world;
- The "Mitten Tree" will be set up in the narthex ready for us to attach to it new mittens and gloves that the Salvation Army will distribute to children who are in need;
- And as if that weren't enough for us to remember and be involved in, **November 19th will be PLEDGE CARD SUNDAY.** For the past few weeks we've asked you to fill out a short stewardship questionnaire. Everyone who responded intimated that they were pleased with the way the leadership at Hope uses the financial contributions of the congregation. We're grateful for that confidence and assure you that those responsible will continue to be good stewards.

Within the next few days you will receive a yellow pledge card. Before you fill it out, please seek the Lord's guidance as to how much you should – by faith – promise, with God's help, to give to the Lord's work at Hope for the next year. Don't look upon this as 'pledging to the church', or 'helping to pay the light bill'. Rather, view this process as a *faith promise you make to the Lord*, so that His kingdom may be extended through the ministry that takes place in and through our church. Then, as an act of personal thanksgiving for His blessings in your life, and as a corporate act of gratitude that He has blessed us with a full-time pastor, let us all honor the Lord with the promise of our continued financial support of His work, by bringing our cards to church on the 19th.