

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

June 2008

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

From the Deacons,

Look for the Giving Tree on Sunday, June 1!! It will be beautifully and patriotically decorated with our 4th of July food items that we provide for our outreach and in-church families in need.

Again, our giving partners from Ilex on Industrial Way, will be joining us to support with food, 12 families this 4th of July. Please return the items purchased Sunday, June 29. The Deacons will organize the items and distribute them on that day.

Praise God and the kind and generous folks of our two communities, Hope and Ilex, who are sharing the blessings they are given.

Just a reminder, clean, gently used clothing will continue to be collected on the first Sunday of each month. Please label your bags '1st Sunday clothes'.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is coming to Hope Church this summer. It will be from July 7th through July 11th, 9:15am -12pm. It is available to all potty-trained 3 year olds through third graders. Please pass this along to anyone you feel might be interested. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. This is an outreach program so participants need not be members. Vacation Bible School will only be successful with your help. If you have any questions or wish to help in any way please contact Michelle Mullan (732) 222-9182 or michellemullan709@comcast.net.

PENTECOST 2008

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” Acts 2:1

What a time of worship and celebration we had! Pentecost 2008 at Hope Church was wonderful!

All three of our Hope church congregations gathered together this year, meeting at 10:30AM as this was the best compromise for all three groups. (We met a little later than normal, the Korean congregation met earlier than normal, and we allowed time for the Brazilian visitors from Elizabeth to drive down to Tinton Falls.

The Brazilians ushered us into worship with two well-known praise songs, sung first in English and then Portuguese (but we all sang along with them in English!): “Open the Eyes of My Heart” and “Shout to the Lord”, accompanied by their wonderful Praise Band. After Rev. Diocelio Rodriguez Leal (Rev. Dio for short) prayed, we greeted each other with the peace of Christ. During the collection of the offering, the English-speaking Praise Team sang “He Reigns”, a song that tells of all God’s children -- every tribe, every tongue, every nation -- coming together to sing “a love song born of a grateful heart”: “Glory, glory, hallelujah, He reigns, He reigns!” After our time of confession and pardon, the Hope Church vocal choir sang “Let Your Spirit Fall Here”, an invitation for God’s Holy Spirit to fill the sanctuary during this celebration of Pentecost.

The Scripture was read in English, Portuguese and Korean: Acts 2:1-4, and Pastor Andrew preached from the Word: “Pentecost: How Good News Comes to Us”. He shared what happened at the first Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered for ministry in the world, to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, just as we have been empowered for ministry with gifts for service to Him. We, too, have been called to be about God’s business of proclaiming the Good News to a hurt and dying world. The Gospel comes to each of us on our own cultural terms, just as God in Jesus Christ meets each of us where we are, with all of our wrinkles and stains, and loves us as we are.

The latter third of our worship service was led by Rev. Yang, who prayed the Prayers of Intercession, mostly in Korean. Although we did not understand much of his words, our spirits most certainly connected with his spirit; Rev. Yang definitely has a “hotline to Heaven” and is a powerful pray-er! The Koreans led us in more praise songs to almighty God, including the Lord’s Prayer, which of course we all sang along with.

After worship, the Sunday School children handed out red carnations to all the ladies for Mothers’ Day, and we all gathered downstairs in the John Calvin room for a time of refreshments and fellowship. It was marvelous to meet those we did not yet know, and feel bound together by the Spirit of God. We all agreed that we should do this type of joint worship more often! It was a most memorable celebration of the Birthday of the Church!

What's Pentecost?

Perhaps you are wondering why we decided to have all three of our Hope Church congregations worshipping together on Pentecost Sunday. Maybe you are wondering what the significance was. Maybe you are wondering what Pentecost was, and why it is so special today. What exactly are we celebrating on Pentecost anyway?

The word "Pentecost" is from the Greek meaning "the 50th day", and falls on the Sunday 50 days after Easter, or the 7th Sunday after Easter. It is the "birthday of the church", the day when God sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within the disciples, thereby empowering them for ministry to the world, and beginning the church's mission to "go and make disciples" in the name of Jesus Christ.

The first Pentecost occurred when the disciples were gathered in the Upper Room. As we are told in the second chapter of the book of Acts, all of a sudden there was the sound as a mighty, rushing wind, and tongues of fire came to rest on each of the disciples, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began speaking in other tongues.

Devout Jews from every nation were in Jerusalem at the time. (They had traveled to the Holy City to celebrate the Festival of Weeks, and offer the first fruits of their harvest. This was one of the three pilgrimages required in the Law of Moses.) These devout Jews overheard the disciples speaking in their native languages, telling in their own tongues "the mighty works of God". Because of this supernatural occurrence, and Peter's powerful preaching, many were brought to faith that day.

That same power that filled the disciples is still available to us today. In fact, it is only by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that we are able to accomplish God's work in the world. What He calls us to, He will empower us for. All we need to do is seek direction and guidance of the Lord as to what His will is for us in ministry, and pray also for ears to hear His voice. And then pray for courage to step out in faith, that God will accomplish His will and work through us. On Pentecost and every day we can celebrate the fact that God is at work among His people, and His work is ongoing in the world. His work is done through His people as He pours out His Spirit among us. Praise God for His infinite faithfulness!

Prayer Shawls

The Hope Presbyterian Church women have been busy knitting and crocheting shawls. Six of the shawls have been taken to the V.N.A. Hospice on Wayside Road in Tinton Falls, last week. Anyone who still has shawls can give them to Dottie Van Pelt and she will see that they are taken to V.N.A.

STEWARDSHIP



Celebration Sunday Picnic

June 8th after worship

SAVE THE DATE!

Come and celebrate our church, our gifts and each other!

Our giving 1st Quarter of 2008 (through March 31)

	<u><i>Pledged</i></u>	<u><i>Received</i></u>	<u><i>Difference</i></u>
<i>Operational account</i>	<i>\$18,581.00</i>	<i>\$17,258.55</i>	<i>- \$1,322.45</i>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>\$5,885.00</i>	<i>\$4,552.00</i>	<i>- \$1,333.00</i>

Intentional Stewardship- The Secret to making Hope GROW

Over the next several months we are going to explore what ‘intentional stewardship’ is and how we can give of ourselves out of gratitude to God for all the things He has given us.

Once again, ‘Intentional Stewardship’ is not intended to make a person question every act at every minute or to make sure you are doing enough or being good enough. This is not intended to make a person feel guilty or inadequate. Intentional stewardship is a life of consciousness; about who each of us is, the circumstances of our lives, and the blessings we, uniquely and individually have been given. Intentional stewardship leads us in heartfelt gratitude, to give back to God and others some portion of our time, talent and treasure. God has graciously and abundantly blessed us. So, in some small way we want to acknowledge that divine generosity with our own human generosity. We are given OPPORTUNITY to do so. The opportunity to look deeply into ourselves so that we might lead a more Godly, Christ-centered life. The opportunity to devote a portion of our time, our talents, and the treasure allotted to each of us so that our church might flourish with a new sense of service and ministry. The opportunity to flood our communities with the goodness and good works of our congregants. The opportunity to unleash a new power of generous stewardship within all of us. ***Stewardship—It’s Already in Your Heart.*** It is so true.

Successful Stewards:



1 GIVE until it feels good



2 SEE NOT obligation but opportunity



3 GIVE to specifics



4 HAVE an 'attitude of gratitude'



5 SHARE various gifts at the right times



6 REALIZE God will point the way



7 SEE stewardship as a spiritual act

It's catching!

As good stewardship is a beautifully spiritual act, it is also contagious. When we see people in our church leading by example of good stewardship, of not calling attention to their generosity, we are very likely to become "infected." We surely are affected. The practice of good stewardship is enormously attractive and appealing. I love that adage, "Preach the gospel, and use words if necessary." That is how good stewards share this bountiful life with God in Christ. Not by mouthing pious words, but by actions that speak to the deepest parts of us. Good stewardship calls out to us all. It's possible, exciting, fulfilling, while bringing us ever closer to the giver of the gifts we have been given.

Summer Concerts

On Saturday June 28th at 6:30 PM we will be having the first concert in our summer concert series. This concert will feature the Ringers of Hope Bell Choir. The Chancel Choir, The Men's Quartet, and possibly a surprise or two. Please don't miss this opportunity to hear Hope's musical groups in concert.

After the concert the Deacons will be hosting a desert reception.

On Saturday July 26th the second concert in the series will be presented, again at 6:30 PM. This concert will feature the Hope Praise Team and a concert of all familiar praise and worship music. This concert will be repeated on Sunday August 3rd at 4:30 PM at the boardwalk pavilion in Ocean Grove. Please plan on singing along as we worship the Lord together.

- Carl Fritsche
Director of Music

Ocean Grove

God's Square Mile At the Jersey Shore

Maybe a far away vacation spot isn't in the cards for you this summer, but why don't you consider taking in some of the events at the Grove this summer? Invite a friend a look for opportunities for spiritual birth, growth, and renewal.

Jean's Picks

Doris Woolley and Ginny Catenaro can give you their own memories of the Grove from their childhood. Ask them to share a memory with you. Over the summer I hope to highlight just a few of the events that are on the calendar. Copies of the whole Summer programs can be found at the Welcome Desk.

Worship Sunday Evenings 7:30 p.m.

June 8 David Epstein from Calvary Baptist New York City

June 15 Haddon Robinson Gordon-Conwell Seminary MA

June 22 Delia Nuesch-Olver Seattle Pacific U. WA

June 29 Eddie Fox United Methodist Ch Nashville, TN

Music

July 9 Ken Medema

July 25 Bridge Worship Event Concert Phil Wickham
Speaker Raul Ries
and a look ahead to August 9 MercyMe

Oh, there's more but I just gave you a taste of the good stuff.
Pick up the summer brochure. I will share more with you in
the July newsletter. Any questions call or mail Jean at
732-544-1131/ jmbuckley@monmouth.com

HELP NEEDED THIS SUMMER

Carol-Jeanne Turk is moving this summer after 33 years in an apartment. Lots of help is needed to help her clean out her attic and apartment and pack everything up to be stored for 3 years. Lost of work for many hands if you are willing and able. She will be gone from July 25 until August 10. There is lots of attic emptying to be done before that and furniture to be stored after that.

If you are willing to help, please call her at 732-542-8060 or e-mail her at nanaturk@hotmail.com.

Thank you very much

Carol Jean

June Birthdays

1	Charles Massa
1	Gwynne Mahns
1	Marc Hunter Ellsworth
2	Jean Buckley
5	Riley Mullan
6	Lorraine Ransom
7	Betty Janin
7	Laura Crutchley
9	Susan Kalmar
13	Nicole Lignos
15	Matt Scheidt
16	Pat Meyers
17	James Van Pelt
24	LeeAnn Tursi
25	Dorothy Van Pelt
26	Donna Anderson Sweeney
27	John Schwartz