

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



# NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

October 2008

Edited by  
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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

## JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE: WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008

Everyone has been asking for a repeat of the intercultural worship service that we had last Pentecost with our Korean and Brazilian sister congregations. Well, it's going to happen!

Unfortunately, the Korean congregation cannot participate as they have a weekend-long revival meeting going on that weekend. (We'll make sure we get a rain-check!) But our Brazilian sisters and brothers will be worshipping with us. Pastor Andrew and Pastor Diocelio are working out the liturgy, and we will have some sort of special meal to share afterwards. So...come prepared to worship our living God, share a special time of communion at our Lord's table, and have a celebration of fellowship and friendship afterwards! See you on the first Sunday in October!

## October Stewardship Thought:

"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others." — **Barbara Bush** (1925-), former American first lady

How's our giving?

Pledged giving as of August 31, 2008 is down quite a bit. Let us not forget our gifts back to our Lord ~ if you were away this summer, there is still time to catch up.

Operational pledges - \$8,877.11

Building fund pledges - \$5,039.00

### Thirteenth Month of Giving

Last year the Finance & Stewardship Committee asked that our congregation prayerfully consider adding a "13<sup>th</sup> month" to the year and give an extra offering that equaled what you would give in a given month. If we are each able to fulfill a 13<sup>th</sup> month of giving, it will mean less we will need to take from our savings to bridge a budget gap. We hope you will once again pray about this and choose it as an opportunity to give back out of gratitude, not obligation.

Accordingly, before we give, we should cheerfully consider the boundlessness of the gifts the Lord has given us—for if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what we have, not according to what we don't have (2 Corinthians 8:12).

The following devotional comes from an online passage written by Stephen & Brooksyne Weber:

## "Ordinary Mary"

"Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you" (Romans 16:6).

I saw "Mary" in action at a church gathering. A disabled person had fallen and in the process had also become very frightened. The scene was becoming somewhat chaotic as people were looking on while the uncomfortable drama unfolded. Due to a life-altering injury the man encountered many years ago he was unable to cope with the situation and needed assistance, both physically and emotionally. A "Mary" lovingly helped this individual to exercise self-restraint while maintaining his dignity.

Most who are familiar with the Bible will readily identify Hebrews 11 as the "Hall of Fame of Faith". This chapter mentions many of the famous characters of the Old Testament such as Noah, Abraham and Moses.

But Romans 16 is another Hall of Fame representing the scores of little known believers who have contributed to the advancement of God's Kingdom throughout the church age. Most of the names mentioned in this chapter (35 altogether) are not referred to anywhere else in Scripture. Yet each made an impact on Paul's life and upon many others as well.

Mention the name, Mary, in the Bible and one probably assumes a reference to the mother of our Lord or to Mary Magdalene. But today's brief Scripture verse is the only Mary mentioned in any of the epistles, a dedicated local believer in the Roman church. Her impact was such that Paul made a special greeting to her in his epistle, "Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you."

Her simple distinction? "She worked very hard for you." We are not told what she did, but the Roman believers knew very well. Perhaps she was on the fellowship committee or she rocked the crying babies to sleep. Those are sure two hard jobs in a healthy, active church! Maybe she stayed around after a church meal to scrub the dishes (way before the days of plastic ware or paper plates.) That chore had to be done back then as well.

Whatever she did, she worked very hard. The emphasis on "very" is purposeful. The KJV reads "bestowed much labor." Finally let us note the simple words "for you." What a blessing she must have been to the church in Rome as she diligently served others!

We've met a lot of people through the years like Mary. In fact some have actually been named Mary! What a tremendous blessing they are; ordinary people using ordinary gifts to build up Christ's extraordinary church. All over the world, unheralded and often underappreciated, they're still a major part of God's plan in getting the job done.

Take note of the "Marys" among you in your congregation. Speak a word of appreciation to them as you intentionally notice that which others might unintentionally miss. And if you happen to be a hard worker for Christ like Mary you will someday hear the words of greatest commendation from the Master Himself, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

This year, as the Stewardship and Finance Committee prepares the annual budget for 2009, we have come up with a different approach that will hopefully show you where your offering goes and how it is spent. There will still be a line item budget to see, but this year we are preparing a Narrative Budget to accompany it.

### ***What is a Narrative Budget you ask?***

A narrative budget is a representation of the line item budget in simple, easy-to-read descriptive terms. It transforms a line item of money and expenses into an exciting and enlivening picture of ministries and missional expressions of the congregation.

Research studies indicate churches often fail to communicate the value of the ministries they provide and the changes occurring in personal lives through ministries. Contributors, therefore, have a limited understanding of the use of their gifts or relationship with those receiving ministry benefits.

A line item budget is an effective tool for the committee on finance to manage financial resources. It is not an effective means for interpreting those ministries or their impact. On the other hand, the narrative budget helps members of the congregation understand what the church is doing in ministry, evangelism, discipleship training, benevolences and missions. It is a connecting link between the contributor and the church's ministries. A well-composed narrative budget will educate and inspire everyone.

### **Categories for Hope's Narrative Budget**

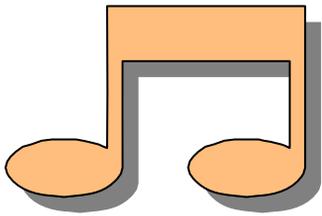
The four categories that will be described in the Narrative Budget will be Worship, Christian Education, Community Mission and Outreach, and Congregational Care.

Worship is self explanatory, as is Christian Education. Community Mission and Outreach is composed of our mission work and outreach to the community at large, which includes the shared use of our facility by two other congregations. Congregational Care is inclusive of our work with our own congregation, like Pastoral care for example.

This, along with the pledge cards and a letter, will go out in a mailing by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> following our worship service, Scott Van Bavel will have time to answer any questions you may have downstairs in the John Calvin Room.

Please be prayerful and mindful that God will provide, but it is up to us as a congregation to come together as one body to honor Him and show are gratitude for His overwhelming abundance in our lives.

**Date: November 8, 2008**



**★ Time: 7:00 PM -9:30PM**

# Silent Auction Party & Sing a' Long



*Hope Presbyterian Church*  
*1189 Hope Rd, Tinton Falls*

*Enjoy horsd'oeuvres,  
soft drinks, coffee, tea and  
dessert while bidding on  
the many items in our  
Silent Auction!!!*

Adults—————\$8.00  
Seniors————--\$6.00  
Children under 12——\$5.00  
Under 3—————FREE

**Contact person: 732-571-3378**

Nancy Oliviero



## Scrip Sundays this Fall

**Put on your calendar the following Sundays when Gift cards (Scrip) will be sold downstairs during fellowship time:**

**October 19**

**November 16 (Place your Christmas orders on this date)**

**December 21**

**See Judy McGuire if you have any questions.**

Adopt- A -Highway is here again. We meet Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 P.M. in the church parking lot. Many hands will make it fun and effortless. Sign up on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

## Summer God- Experiences

Carol-Jeanne Turk is collecting your experiences. God will be with you for the summer months. When you witness Him in your lives this summer write down the experience and email it to Carol-Jeanne. If you notice the glory of a sunrise over the ocean or you meet someone who goes above and beyond the norm to help you out, thank god and let Carol-Jeanne know. Your stories will be shared in this year's Advent Booklet. God loves you and wants you to spread His Good News to everyone in as many ways as possible. Add a Bible verse to supplement the experience and a prayer to thank God for it. Send all stories to [adventbooklet@live.com](mailto:adventbooklet@live.com). Work on as many stories as God gives you over the entire summer. Talk to Carol-Jeanne for more information. 732-542-8060.

## Look What Kids Are Doing this Fall

Our summary of summer activities was a popular newsletter feature, so now we'll let you in on fall happenings among our Sunday School kids.

Gabriella Brown, now in kindergarten, is proud to announce that she is taking karate lessons.

More puppy news this month. Megan Tursi has taken on raising a 3 month old black lab puppy for the Morristown Seeing Eye Institute. Megan is also the captain of the Monmouth Regional Cross Country Team. Amanda is making her mark on the soccer field as captain of the Eatontown Rec team, and as a member of both the Red Bank traveling team and the Memorial School soccer team. Mary also plays soccer and is also busy with Linda Jean's Dance Team.

The Mullan family is also involved in sports this fall. Conor is playing soccer for his middle school and is also in a fall baseball league. Danny is on a traveling soccer team based in Oceanport. In school, he is on the Safety Patrol. Here's where it gets really intriguing...Michelle Mullan, assisted by Pastor Andrew, is coaching Riley's rec soccer team. Michelle, we need photographic evidence of Andrew's soccer skills.

Over in the McNicholas home, Trevor, who just turned 4, is still enjoying memories of his super hero birthday party. He is now an official preschool student. Kelly is in fourth grade, and her parents are so proud that she is in the advanced math class. She is in the chorus and learning to play the chimes. A future bell choir member! Jamie is in second grade and busy planning her 7<sup>th</sup> birthday – a bowling party. She is eager for Brownies to start.

## Operation Christmas Child

Can a shoebox change a child's life? If it's filled with an outpouring of God's love it can. We will again be collecting shoeboxes or plastic containers filled with goodies for children in need around the world. Operation Christmas Child, an outreach of Samaritan's purse, delivers these boxes and the message of Jesus Christ to children of all ages in various parts of the world. The collection of these boxes will take place on November 16, 2008. Please follow the instructions given in the pamphlet and remember, no liquids and no chocolates. You must also place the label which designates the recommended sex and age of your recipient on the outside of the box so it is easy to make sure your gift gets into the right hands. These labels are found on the information pamphlet. You may also make copies of the labels to hand out to friends, family, co-workers, etc. Let's see how many people we can get involved in this worthwhile project. Previous years have shown that a little church can make a big difference!

## **October Birthday List**

- 7 Jennifer Rose Morris
- 10 Marilyn Gifford
- 14 Michael Shephard
- 16 Lynda Hicken
- 16 Nathaniel Brown
- 18 Fred Morris
- 20 Kelly Van Pelt
- 24 Andrew Tibert
- 27 Stephanie Demchock
- 30 Charles Butler