

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



NOTES OF HOPE



A monthly publication to keep us informed.

September 2009

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Published by
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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

Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

Jesus said *"For where your treasure is there your heart will be also"* Luke 12:34. As we near the end of our summer vacations and prepare to return to a fall schedule including work, school and sports activities, I would like to take some time to bring everyone up to date on our mission's financial status.

Through the end of June our offerings have been just where we expected them to be. Not to say this isn't good, but what we projected our offerings to be still fell short of our purposed spending for the year. The difference through June of our offerings versus our spending was \$6,650. We had planned on having to use some of our savings to make up the difference through the year, and while this is not the preferred method of supporting our mission, sometimes extreme measures have to be taken. Unfortunately the summer months have been a different story. Our offerings have been down and the amount we have had to use from our savings has ballooned to nearly \$13,000. Our giving typically increases in the fall and will probably make up some of the difference, but without a **significant** dedication on our part, we will completely exhaust our savings by the end of the year. As for the Honoring our Debt fund which pays the mortgage the news is similar. Our offerings were just about what was anticipated, but the difference between that and our spending was \$2,300. Over the past few months that difference has grown to nearly \$3,500. I know these figures seem daunting, but as a congregation of God we shall come through this as long as we all commit to giving sacrificially, not because we have to, but because we want to in FAITH. Please take some time to pray about our financial situation and how you as an individual can help. Of course if you have any questions or concerns and just want to talk please contact me directly.

Thank You
Yours in Jesus

Treasurer

Are you being a 'good steward' of your Finances?

Are you a "good steward"?

In order to know if you are a "good" steward, perhaps a definition of "steward" is in order. Webster defines a "steward" as "one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns" (mainly related to money).

Think this doesn't apply to you?

In the book of Matthew in the Bible, Jesus talks about three men who were given money to manage for the owner.

One man, given the most to manage, went and found a way to double the amount his master gave him. The second man was given less to manage, but still found a way to double the master's money. The third man, however, given the least amount, was afraid of what his master would do if he lost the money... so to protect what he was given he went and buried it.

Upon accounting for their actions to the owner, both the first and the second man were rewarded for their efforts. The master said to each:

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."

For being fearful and not properly using what he was given, the master took the money the third servant had wastefully buried and gave it to a servant who had doubled his amount...then threw the "lazy" and "faithless" third servant off of his property.

What does this have to do with today?

For thousands and thousands of years, people have wanted to increase their possessions, knowledge, abilities, and experiences- and those who have consistently been able to do so have understood and applied a very simple concept.

Here is the clue...when you sow a seed of anything; you will reap a harvest of it.

We are HIS! Our place in this world is to serve as God's stewards on earth, and our responsibility is to manage God's "estate" and multiply whatever amount of anything God has given us.

Whether we are given most of time, talent, or treasures, it is our responsibility not to bury or hide them...we are to use them and invest them into those things that will not only multiply them, but in turn reap a harvest of eternal significance.

Taken from: <http://ezinearticles.com/?Are-you-Being-a-Good-Steward-of-Your-Finances?>

How's our giving?

Income			
Month to Date July 31, 2009		Year to Date July 31, 2009	
Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
\$9,013.00	\$6,836.00	\$63,088.00	\$59,105.00
	-\$2,177.00		-\$3,983.00
Expenses			
Month to Date July 31, 2009		Year to Date July 31, 2009	
Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
\$11,750.00	\$12,039.00	\$82,250.00	\$70,959.00
	\$289.00		-\$11,291.00

FORGIVENESS SEMINAR

It's pretty much part of the human condition that we carry scars from previous wounds received as a result of our interactions with other human beings. Perhaps it is betrayal that a spouse has inflicted on his or her partner. Perhaps it is a hurtful thing from a co-worker. Perhaps it is psychological damage inflicted from parent to child. Sometimes the hurt is intentional; sometimes it is totally unintentional. Whatever the cause, it is not easy for us to forgive the person who has hurt us. And sometimes we carry guilt about not being able to forgive in the ways we think we should. We know that we certainly do not forgive as God does: He forgives and forgets! And sometimes it is even hard to forgive ourselves whatever shortcomings or bad decisions we have made, because it is so hard for us to imagine how God could ever forgive us. We try to forgive, and it certainly is a process. Sometimes we may feel like we take 2 steps forward, and then slide 5 back. But one thing is for sure: unforgiveness does not hurt the person who has hurt us, it only hurts us. It can chew away at our insides, causing illness and more hurt and bitterness.

Beginning on **Wednesday, September 30th**, and continuing for 5 weeks, the Congregational Life Commission will be sponsoring a series of seminars entitled "Forgiveness Therapy: A Psychological Path to Well-Being". Each 90-minute session will meet at Hope Church. Topics will include what forgiveness is and what it is not, how to make choices in personal relationships to promote emotional and physical health, the mind-body connection and how it relates to the development of the habit of forgiveness, and emotional management skills to overcome negative feelings and promote intrapersonal stability.

The seminar instructor is Mrs. Mel Bennett. She is a NJ State licensed counselor whose practice interests are rooted in theories of Positive Psychology with a particular focus on Forgiveness, Gratitude, Optimism and Resilience. She currently works for the New Jersey State Commission for the Blind focusing on adjustment to blindness therapy and in a private practice in Sea Girt specializing in the treatment of anxiety disorders.

The attendance fee is \$15. per session, payable at the door. Participants are not required to share personal information while attending, and participants are free to come and go, attending one session or something less than all five. However this protocol has steps or components which serve as building blocks and so attendance at all sessions is strongly encouraged.

These sessions are open to all. We encourage you to share this information with friends, family, coworkers, whoever you think might be interested. And as we meet, let us anticipate God doing a healing in our midst through our seminar leader.

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, and 28

TIME: 7-8:30PM

WHERE: Hope Church

If you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you. Matthew 6:15

Gleaners Provide Clean-Up Funds

Thanks to the Gleaners for providing some extra “sparkle” to the downstairs of our church. As has been their tradition, the Gleaners hired a cleaning service to professionally scrub the kitchen area and shampoo the John Calvin Room carpeting during the week of August 17. In addition, the Gleaners contracted to have both bathrooms cleaned by the service as well. An early start to fall clean-up!

COME ONE, COME ALL RALLY BACK TO CHURCH SCHOOL

SUNDAY SEPT. 13TH
WE WILL BEGIN WITH A SPECIAL DEDICATION
OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS DURING THE
9:30 A.M WORSHIP SERVICE.

RALLY ACCORDING TO WEBSTER'S IS "A MUSTERING OF SCATTERED FORCES TO RENEW AN EFFORT." THE DEFINITION SOUNDS LIKE IT IS RIGHT ON TARGET FOR OUR PURPOSE.

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE BEEN SCATTERED OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. NOW WE ARE NOW SEEKING OUT FOR THEM TO COME ON BOARD AND RALLY AROUND A NEW SEASON. /*OUR PURPOSE IS TO ALLOW ALL TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE ENDURING LOVE OF GOD FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

This would be a great Sunday to bring a visitor OR FAMILY to join your family in church and your children in church school. We know that many people are just waiting to be asked. Make RALLY DAY A GREAT KICK OFF TO THE FALL SEASONAT HOPE CHURCH!

PUMPKIN FEST OF HOPE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

TIME: 9:00AM TO 2:00PM

FOR SALE:

Pumpkins

Mums

Hay Bales

Corn Stalks

Baked Goods

Many Crafts

& Refreshments

HOPE CHURCH
1189 HOPE RD
(BETWEEN WYCKOFF RD AND INDUSTRIAL WAY)
TINTON FALLS, NJ

Craft Sale



September Birthdays

3 Emily McGuire
9 Connie Scheidt
14 Susan Lisle
14 Tara Gurer
20 Gail McCabe
21 Jonathan Lisle
23 Frank Clark
28 Edwin Rivera
28 Martha Dorsett
29 Thomas Baker
29 Mary Mazza
30 Ceil Norman