

HERE'S HOPE

Newsletter for the Congregation and Friends of Hope Church
www.lakewoodhope.com

June 2010

Calendar of events:

- **Sunday Worship Services are 9:30 and 11:00**
- **Sunday School classes are at 9:30**
- **Sunday Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups 7:00 p.m.**
- Covered Dish Supper every 3rd Sunday of the month
- Monday evenings Bible Study 7:30
- Wednesday mornings Bible Study 9:45
- 3rd Wednesday of every month Lunch with the Pastor!
- Thursday afternoons Quilting 1:00
- Thursday evenings Choir practice 7:30 p.m.
- Last Monday of every month Salt Shaker's Breakfast

The following groups meet in the Fellowship Hall

Monday evenings Boy Scouts
Wednesday evenings AA
Thursday evenings Daytop NJ Family Association
Saturday evening NA
Sunday afternoons AA

Summer is just around the corner! What better way to start off summer than our annual Sunday School Picnic?

The annual church picnic will be June 13th after the 10:00 AM Worship Service in Pine Lake Park @ the Clarence Brown Pavilion (Front of Park, by County Line Road).



There is a sign up poster in the narthex. Please sign up for whatever you would like to bring. Games for the Kids and Adults! Come for fun and fellowship.

CHURCH PICNIC

It's graduation time. If your child or grandchild is graduating please let us know.

Call the church office at 732-364-8318 and tell us the student's name, the school name and degree earned (if college.)

The mini film festival is returning again this year!



On Monday, July 12th at 7:00 p.m. we will gather in the Fellowship Room to watch "The Blind Side" starring Sandra Bullock.

On Monday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m. we will again meet in the Fellowship Room to watch "Enchanted" starring Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey.

Both of these films are appropriate for the entire family.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: IF GOD IS YOUR CO-PILOT - SWAP SEATS!



The Book Study Group will meet on July 18th, immediately following the Pot Luck Supper.

The book we will discuss is Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen.

The next book we will discuss in September is The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

CE Wants you to know....

June 6th is the last day of Sunday school classes.

June 13th is the Children's Worship Sunday.

It is also the day we start one Worship Service at 10:00 in the morning.

On September 12th when we go back to two Worship Services, one at 9:30 and one at 11:00.

June 20th is Father's Day!

VBS will be the week of August 9th.

More information will be coming soon.



WHO TO CONTACT

FOR:	PHONE	CONTACT
Hope Church	364-8318	Veralynn in the Office
Pastor at home	244-1299	Rev. Barbara Hicks
Pastor's cell #	245-3690	Rev. Barbara Hicks
Clerk of Session	364-8873	Jim Marks
President of corporate matters	814-1404	Chris Earle
Treasurer	367-5233	Chris Szolkowski
Music Director	275-1937	Irina Bessedá
Sexton	364-8873	Jim Marks
Senior Youth Group	528-3459	Peggy Wuestneck/ Jessica Johnson/
Junior Youth Group	492-6948	Maria & Chris Earle
Food Pantry	367-6627	Ken Williams
Flowers	276-6925	Judy Ward
Quilting Group	363-8816	Jean Horner
Redevelopment	364-8873	Jim Marks

2010 GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

MIKKI HAYES FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELORS DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY.

M. ASHLEIGH JOHNSON GRADUATED WITH AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN PHOTOGRAPHY FROM ANTONELLI INSTITUTE OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY. ASHLEIGH WANTS TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN MARKETING BUT HAS NO DEFINITE PLANS AT THIS TIME.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

IAN BRYANT, KEVIN HUY, MATTHEW MIKKELSON, AND ABBY WUESTNECK

ADVANCEMENT TO HIGH SCHOOL

JACKIE BLAHO, KYLE BRYANT, Ayla MAY EARLE, COLIN MIKKELSON, SARAH STRAUSS AND ALEX WUESTNECK



Committee members needed!

If you are interested in joining any committee please contact the committee chair.

Administration	Chris Earle & Ron Hoffman
Buildings & Grounds	Ken Beyer & Tony Travisano
Christian Education	Hillary Bryce & Jacquie Revier
Fellowship	Carol Urm & Chris Earle
Membership / Stewardship	Cathie Strauss & Bob Blake
Mission	Al Manus & Peggy Wuestneck
Redevelopment	Jim Marks & Jacquie Revier
Worship	MaryAnn Hayes

Elder Nominating:	Al Manus & Cathie Strauss
Harvest Home AdHoc	Ron Hoffman & Chris Earle
Presbytery Commissioner	Hillary Bryce

Another beautiful Lord's Day to count our blessings and offer thanks for the abundance we enjoy.

Invite someone to come to church with you.

Go pick them up if they need a ride.

Call them this week and tell them you are thinking of them.



Nothing says I LOVE YOU like a call to say
"I WAS THINKING OF YOU."

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...



It is a rare Tuesday evening when I don't have a meeting to attend, and as I write this I am enjoying just such a night. It has taken me some time to think about what I want to write to you all for this month's newsletter. But at times inspiration cannot be hurried.

This past Saturday your Session gathered in the Fellowship Room for a six-hour retreat. Eleven of the twelve elders were there as was the Clerk. We studied the PCUSA's recent publication entitled, "Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide." Our denomination has recognized the nation-wide problem of dwindling attendance and engagement in the local church. It is hoped that by using this study churches can identify ways to grow in numbers.

While we did not find the study to be really germane to a small congregation which sits in the midst of an ultra-orthodox Jewish community, we were able to identify things Hope might do in the near future to grow.

The Session is going to take the next few months to think and pray about what we talked about during the retreat and come up with some solutions. We need your help and input. If you have any insights or ideas about how we might reach out to bring in new members, please speak to an elder or to me. We want to hear your voice. In the meantime, please continue to pray for your Session as we work to discern what God want us to do.

When I reflect on worship services like the one we celebrated on Pentecost, I know that God has great things for us to do. Confirming eight youth was amazing. And several of these new members have already picked a committee they want to serve on. With enthusiasm like that, Hope has a great future!

One of the things we do well at Hope is fellowship. This year our church picnic is on June 13th immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. I encourage all of you to come to Pine Park and enjoy good food, great games and wonderful company.

In Christ's Service,

Barbara

Thought for the day: "*Perhaps coincidence is God's way of staying anonymous*"
I've seen this quote attributed to several people so I don't know who actually said it.
But take some time to think about it...it is really quite an amazing idea.

Dear Women of Hope,

I just want to tell you about the women's retreat that I went to in April. It was held at the Camp Johnsonburg, which is the Presbyterian Camp. I had never been there before. It was wonderful. It took us about two hours to get there from Lakewood. We arrived around 7:30 pm and gathered with the rest of the women attending the retreat. There were around 75 of us from about 12 churches. The ages ranged from the mid twenties to mid eighties. We were entertained by a woman who is a songwriter and plays guitar. Her name is Kim Yarson. She is a Christian who appears at libraries, schools, churches, etc. The lyrics in her songs set the mood for the weekend. She sang about friendships and the ups and downs of our relationships with others. Next we experienced the Labyrinth that was set up in the gym. This was a first for me and I found it to be a peaceful experience.

We stayed in cabins that had recently been renovated. They were clean, comfortable with heat and hot water. We shared it with the women from the Hightstown church. On Saturday we had a leisurely breakfast in the cabin. Barbara Hicks led a Bible study. The theme was friendship. We were all comfortable and enjoyed the discussion as we colored images that, when finished, looked like stained glass windows. We had lunch at the dining hall with the entire group. During free time you could take a nature walk with the camp caretaker, take a boat out on the lake, join the book discussion, shop at a local antique shop, take a yoga class, gab with your friends, or just be by yourself.

We had dinner at the dining hall and then returned to our cabin for another Bible study. Our evening was free to watch a movie, rest, read or join the group for a hymn sing in the dining hall in front of a beautiful, blazing fire.

On Sunday morning we had a light breakfast in our cabin and then went to worship at the out-door chapel that overlooks the lake. It was a beautiful warm morning. The sermon consisted of a few words from various women who shared their feelings about the camp and their experience during the retreat. We shared communion. During the weekend each of us had been given a six inch square of linen to decorate. We were asked to express what we felt at the retreat. When it was time for the offering, the squares were collected and they will be put together to create a quilt. The quilt will be displayed at the various churches throughout the year. When we had a moment of silence to say a prayer, I looked around at all of the wonderful women from our presbytery that I had met. I realized how important they all are to their families, their churches and their communities. I asked God to bless them all and give them strength to do his will.

I hope to return to the 5th Annual Women's Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg and I hope the other women of "HOPE" will join me. If you are interested, please speak to Barbara Hicks

Ginny Kaiser

Sunday School Humor

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

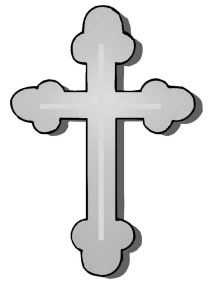
DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?' 'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'

Every two years we hold a confirmation/commission class for our 8th and 9th graders. This is a 14 week class that helps the students explore what it means to be a Christian and a Presbyterian. Through homework and class work the students are introduced to the tenets of our faith and the polity (government) of our denomination. At the end of the class each student is given the option of being confirmed if they feel ready. One of the main assignments is for the students to write a statement of faith. This statement is then read out loud at for the entire Session. The Session members can then examine the students as to their understanding of all that they learned.

Throughout the years here at Hope we have had some incredibly deep and excellent statements written by our children. This year was no exception. In the next few months we will be reprinting these statements so that you will see the fine work these students have completed.

When you see them at church, tell them what reading their statements have meant to you. It will make their day!



Statement of Faith

I believe that God is the Father and the ruler of the universe. I believe that God is almighty, a protector, the creator, is holy, good, faithful, forgiving and loving. I believe that God has helped me through my life in many ways. It was not always in big things but in little things such as realizing how much I take for granted. The house I live in, the clothes I wear, the family I have and the beautiful world we live in. So many people don't realize all of the blessings they have. Or how much we are destroying the beauty of the world with our desires. God has made me come to realize all of these amazing blessings I have. I believe God will be with me through the rest of my life.

I believe that Jesus is my savior and my brother. I believe that Jesus is the light of the world and like a brother will be beside me for my entire life. I believe that Jesus is a perfect example of what God wants us to become. He wants us to love our enemies and to care for others, as we care for our families and friends. He wants us to be lead by Jesus' example of being loving, being good and caring. I love Jesus, I trust Jesus and I have an unconditional love for him.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is my guidance. It is my conscience, it tells me right from wrong and good from bad. I believe that the Holy Spirit is there to teach me life lessons. To show me which is the right path and which is the wrong path disguised by temptation. The Holy Spirit will guide me down the right path throughout my life, only if I make the right choices.

I believe that the Bible is a story. It is God's love story to us. It tells about God and Jesus' unconditional love to us. The Bible is something I can pick up and read about the wonderful works of God and Jesus Christ. The Bible to me is like a book of answers, if you don't know right from wrong in a situation it is in the Bible, someday, somehow the answer is there.

I believe the church is an important aspect of my life. When I go to Sunday School class, every time I go I hear a lesson that makes me think about things I have done in the past week, or throughout my whole life up to this day. My teacher, Mrs. Colleen teaches me life lessons and makes me think about what I can do differently in my life to make myself a better person.

I believe that church membership is a way to connect. It is a way to embed yourself into the church and into God. You have to be involved in a church so you don't lose your way. So you don't make the wrong decisions and be pushed away from God and Jesus. When you are a member of the church you are a part of everything the church is: its fellowship, its love, the feeling of family, and the word of God and Jesus. I feel that church membership is the way to build your relationship with God.

By Jaclyn Blaho

Prom Gowns

In April, Cheryl Rivera and I organized an impromptu prom gown drive for local teens through One Simple Wish, an amazing local organization that strives to help children and families in need.

Teens who could not afford prom gowns this season were able to visit the organization's dress shop every Saturday from March through May and choose a dress for free, as long as they had a voucher. Without a voucher, dresses were sold to the general public at an affordable price for only \$10 (accessories were \$5).



Although we participated in the prom dress drive towards the end of the donation period, Hope Presbyterian members were able to donate a total of 23 gowns to the effort. Next year, we plan to start the drive in January so we have a full three months to collect and donate gowns, shoes, purses, and accessories to this worthy cause.

--Erica Sapio

For more information go to <http://www.onesimplewish.org/>

“Know Your Elders”

My name is Jacquie Revier. I am co-chair of the Christian Education committee and co-chair on the Redevelopment committee. I also serve on Fellowship committee. I teach first, second and third grades at our Sunday school. Currently I am proudly serving my third term on our session here at Hope church.

My family has attended hope for several generations. My Grandmother Minnie Mick served as treasurer for over thirty years.

I was baptized here at Hope 52 years ago and attended Sunday school and youth group here. I am married to Mike Revier. Mike and I joined Hope after our third child, Katie was born. We have been members here at Hope about 22 years. We had both our daughters, Katie and Jeannie baptized on Mothers Day 21 years ago.

We have 4 wonderful children. Mikey, 26 who lives and works in NYC. Jeannie, 23 who also works in NYC. Jeannie will be competing for Miss New Jersey in June. Katie is 21 she lives and works in Ocean Township. Joe, 18 is home, attending college and preparing to join the US Marine Corp.

I live in Howell very close to Hope. And I have my own business called Playtime Costumes. I work as a costumer for theater groups and schools through-out Monmouth and Ocean Counties. I worship with my Mom Jean Horner each Sunday at 11:00. One of the things I love is our Salt Shakers breakfast club. As the co-chair person for CE I will be looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible School which will run the week of August 9th.

Hope has given so much to my family and me through the years. I love to give back with my time and talents as much as I can.

LET'S MEET THE QUILTERS!

The Hope Church Quilters Group is a tradition going back to 1888 when the church building (the "Old Church") was completed. It was formed from the Ladies Aid Society and has moved from Fellowship Hall and various locations to the Manse, where the ladies now meet. They make baby quilts which are given to babies who are baptized at the church, and one quilt which is raffled as a fund raiser. Last year's quilt raffle made \$2,000 for the church!

Not only do the ladies cut, stitch and sew, they enjoy fellowship with each other and keep up with news of their families and share joys and concerns with one another. There are now 10 active members and they welcome anyone who wants to join them. They currently meet on Thursdays at noon and enjoy a bag lunch before they get to work.

They usually wrap up their needles and thread around 3 pm after tea and cookies are enjoyed.

Members are: Jean Horner, Laura Johnson, Vera Lawton, Inez Tice, Fan Whiting, Pru Bates, Joan Harrington, Susan Dutton, Jody Buckalew, Joy Perella, Arlene Backus, Elaine Flechtner and honorary member Cathie Strauss.

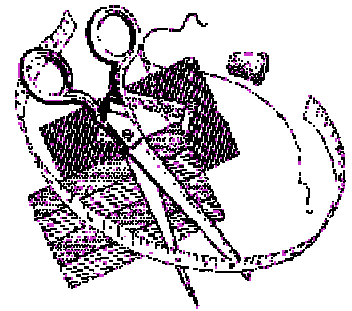
Two members of the group, Jean Horner and Laura Johnson have been lifelong friends and both have proudly celebrated their 80th birthdays! They were each brought to the group by their grandmothers and mothers, since babysitters were unheard of in those days. The ladies embroidered, knitted and quilted while keeping abreast of news.

Women of those days were homemakers and their social lives centered around the church. The group is very proud of a 100 year old frame that they still use for their raffle quilt.

The quilters enjoy social times as well, with a Christmas party and a Spring luncheon.

They welcome new members - just stop in for an interesting afternoon with a great group of talented ladies!

Judy Ward



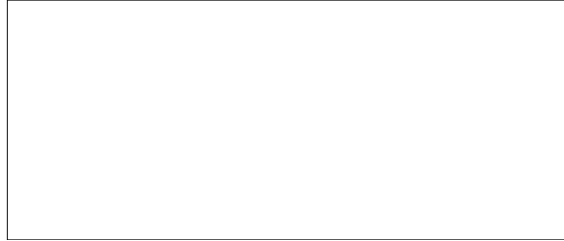
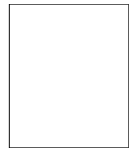
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO...



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD

Hope Church
617 Hope Chapel Road
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Phone: 732-364-8318



Hope Building Hope.

JUNE



Be sure to visit Hope Church's website at: www.lakewoodhope.com

Newsletter Deadline is the 15th of each month.

**E-mail any news to Secretary@lakewoodhope.com
OR Cathie99@optonline.net.**



Church Office Hours

The Rev. Barbara Hicks' Office hours for 2010 are as follows:
Monday through Thursday: 10:00-2:00
Friday: Off
She is always available by telephone, or cell phone.

REMEMBER WHEN YOU GO ON VACATION
THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS HERE!

So...

