

HERE'S HOPE

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

December 2010

It's A Charlie Brown Christmas



This year's **CHRISTMAS PLAY**, a "Charlie Brown's Christmas" will be performed by the Junior youth group at 4:30 on December 19th in the church sanctuary. The younger grade Sunday School children will be involved as well. Performers should arrive at 4 PM to get ready for the show.



Longest Night Service. Our annual Longest Night service will be held on Sunday, December 5th at 7:30p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This service is for everyone and especially for those who have experienced any kind of loss in their lives. During a time of hymn singing, scripture reading, candle lighting and message we will hear again the hope we have in the midst of our longest nights because of the birth of the Christ child.

The annual **CHRISTMAS PARTY** will take the place of our December covered dish dinner on **December 19th at 5:30**, after the Christmas play.

Jacque Revier, of the Christian Education committee will be distributing aluminum pans labeled with food items to bring.

You have to choose which item is suitable for you to bring. Pans will be available after Thanksgiving in the narthex of the church. This is always our most attended monthly dinner, and the most Fun. Please plan on attending with your entire family.

Who knows? Santa may even come!!!



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On Sunday December 19th, the choir will perform the cantata,

I HEAR THE PROPHET CALLIN'

The Christmas Story from Prophecy to Fulfillment
Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

Please plan on attending the 10 AM worship service to hear the great news!!!



Joy to the world!

The Christmas Giving Tree is coming!

This year we will be supporting Interfaith Hospitality Network in addition to our usual collection of gifts for various aged girls and boys.

I am waiting for the wish lists of a family currently in the IHN program. I will list items in the Sunday bulletin and ask anyone interested in purchasing the specific items from the wish list to contact me.

There will be the usual tags hanging on the tree in the narthex with the child's gender and age written on it. Please take a tag and return the item unwrapped. Wrapping paper, tape and ribbon are also very helpful.

As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Pam Flockhart for the Mission Committee



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

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

How to speak Presbyterian

It has been estimated that 58 percent of the members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) did not grow up in the denomination. For readers in that category, here is a short run-down of the lingo you are likely to hear in a Presbyterian church that you may not have heard in another church.

Lord's Supper

This is the meal we share from the Lord's Table. Some churches call this meal Communion or the Eucharist.

Eucharist is from the Greek word for "thanksgiving," which is what Jesus did before he gave the bread and wine to his disciples

Manse

This is a house owned by a congregation that they let the minister live in. In some denominations this is called the "parsonage." The word *manse* comes from the Latin word *mansio* which means "dwelling."

Look for more words in the next few months!

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...



Dear Friends,

Recently I came across a little story one of my internet colleagues sent out a few years ago. When I read it again I was struck by its power to describe the incarnation in a way that everyone can understand. The story goes like this:

Some years ago, my (then) three year old grandson gave me a great illustration for Christmas. Brendan is an extremely bright kid (genius level his teachers say), so conversations with him have a strange twist to them sometimes.

Anyway, this day he was standing looking at some ants. I asked him what he was thinking. "I'm wondering if ants can hear. Do you know whether ants have ears?"

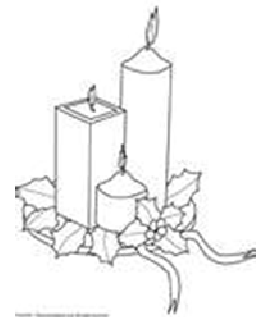
"Sorry mate, I've no idea! - why? Do you have something you want to tell them?" "Well, actually Ruth" this in a very condescending voice, "even if they do have ears and can hear, my voice would be quite incomprehensible to them". Flummoxed, I decide to fix this smart-aleck. "So - if you really wanted to communicate with them, how would you go about it?" After a long consider pause, "I guess I'd just have to become an ant". By Ruth Dudley

On Christmas God became a human being so that his voice would no longer be incomprehensible to us. So let us use the weeks of Advent to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the gift of the Christ Child. In the midst of all your busyness in getting ready for the big day, take some time to pause and come to church for the Advent services where we will light a candle each week in anticipation of the greatest event in history. Make plans to come to the Christmas Cantata presented by our choir on December 19th at 10 a.m. and then return that same afternoon for our Sunday school Christmas pageant followed by the Christmas party.

Then on Christmas Eve, come to a service at either 5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. and hear again the wonderful Christmas carols and life-giving words of the Christmas story. Christmas is a homecoming for many people as college students return home and families are reunited to celebrate the holidays. At Hope it is also a homecoming and we hope to see each one of you come to your church home.

From my family to yours, we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with joy and health and opportunities to serve our living, loving God.

Barbara



Know Your Elders: Al Manus

As a member of session I have been asked to write a little something about myself this month. I became a member of Hope Presbyterian Church in the spring of 2008 and came on session in 2009; but my affiliation with Hope Presbyterian Church goes back many years, in fact, as early as 1952 if not earlier. I was confirmed at Hope Presbyterian Church on May 13th, 1956, that was a long time ago.

Serving on a session has been a rewarding experience. During the two years on session I have served as co-chair of Missions. The mission committee working with other functions in the church and the extended community has accomplished much. These accomplishments can be attributed to a number of factors. First of all there is you – the individual members of the congregation. Nothing that we could have accomplished could have done without your support and encouragement and the session's. Secondly, for the last two years Hope has been blessed with an active, involved, caring, and compassionate mission committee. Finally, the mission committee has had the strong support, encouragement of our Pastor Barbara Hicks who never gave up on us.

Serving has been on mission's has been a blessing to me and when I came on session I knew which committee I wanted to serve. Now you may ask why did I choose to serve on missions. Well, I'll share that piece of information with you. My two paternal aunts, Ruth and Frieda, served as missionaries with PC (USA). Aunt Ruth served in Lebanon during the war years. She traveled to Lebanon by ship crossing the Mediterranean with British troops avoiding U boats under the cover of darkness. My Aunt Frieda served in China until she and other missionaries were thrown out with the communist takeover. In later years she served in India. Frieda would visit with the family on furlough and spent the time at home visiting churches talking about her missionary work, and in particular, her work with young women at a school near New Delhi. What struck me most in the stories told by my aunts were their love and compassion for the people they served and the strong bond within the missionary community. My aunts were indeed blessed. So I said why not, and I looked to missions.

Elder Nomination Report

Congratulations to our newly elected elders;

Beverly Daniels, David Johnson, Scott Mikkelson, and Donna Smith.

The congregational meeting was held on 14th of November. The nominating committee presented the slate for election. We are pleased that these members agreed to serve on the session of the church. We recognize and appreciate their commitment to serve as active elders for the years 2011 through 2013.

It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation. As members of this church we welcome and support the work of our session. Please pray for your session and encourage one another with your willingness to serve on committees and worship regularly.

We want to thank the nominating committee for their faithful endeavors to bring to election these elders who are considered persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. The task of recruiting was one of prayerful and careful consideration. Thanks to Elder Al Manus and Elder Cathie Strauss, and to their committee Steve Blaho, Colleen Crawford, Patty Williams, Kathy Johnson, Ginny Kaiser, and Dawn Gaudenti for their faithful service.

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

You are cordially invited to
A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

GUEST OF HONOR: JESUS CHRIST

- DATE:** Every day. Traditionally December 25th
But he's always around, so the date is flexible....
- Time:** Whenever you're ready.
(Please don't be late, though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!)
- Place:** In your heart....He'll meet you there.
(You'll hear Him knock)
- Attire:** Come as you are...grubbies are okay.
(He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about new white robes and crowns for everyone who stays till the last.)
- Tickets:** Admission is free. He's already paid for everyone....
(He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it anyway.....
It cost Him everything He had. But you do need to accept the ticket!!)
- Refreshments:** New wine, bread, and far-out drink He calls "Living Water,"
(followed by a supper that promises to be out of this world!)
- Gift Suggestions:** Your life. He already has everything else.
(He is very generous in return though. Just wait until you see what He has for you!)
- Entertainment:** Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Life, Love, Real Happiness
Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, Healing, Power,
Eternity in Paradise, Contentment, and much more!
(All "G" rated, so bring your family and friends.)

R.S.V.P. VERY IMPORTANT!

He must know ahead so He can reserve a spot for you at the table.
Also, He's keeping a list of His friends for future reference.
He calls it the "Lambs Book of Life."

Hope to see you there! Plan on attending the party, and share this with someone today!



MISSION NEWS

Homeless Clothing Drive A Great Success

The congregation's response to the homeless clothing drive for those living in make shift accommodations in Lakewood was above and beyond expectations. From about October 10th through November 14th weekly clothing drop offs were made to the homeless community just off Cedar Bridge Avenue in Lakewood.

Thank you to all who helped out.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Commitment January 1, 2011

On the evening of January 1, 2011, our congregation is committed to providing an evening meal and an overnight host at the temporary shelter on Lapsley Lane, Lakewood. The families served are families with children who have lost their homes but, in most cases, still are employed or have limited sources of income. Chris Earle has volunteered to take care of the meal, and Tony Travisano has volunteered to serve as overnight host. A big thank you goes out to Chris and Tony for stepping up to this commitment. Let them know you appreciate their commitment.

Food Contributions Needed to Address Needs of Ocean County Combat Veterans Served by the Vet Center in Lakewood

The Vet Center in Lakewood has communicated a need for food contributions for combat veterans and their families served by the Lakewood Vet Center.

The food needs in our community are significant. Please remember our veterans and those in need as we approach the winter months in an economy characterized by continuing significant unemployment.



Christmas Cards Sent to Our Troops Serving in Troubled Remote Areas Overseas

A word of thanks goes to Ben Louise Stoner for coordinating the effort to send Christmas cards to our troops overseas for their use in communicating with families and friends. A thank you also goes out to members of the congregation who contributed cards in support of this effort.

Square/ Country Western Benefit Dance on November 13th a Great Event

The benefit dance on November 13th supporting next year's youth mission trip grossed approximately \$427 with 21 tickets sold comprising about 31 ticket holders. As a fund raiser the event was somewhat disappointing but we more than covered our costs. In terms of a church family event, the event was outstanding. The caller was an understanding instructor, the food donated was irresistible, and the room was filled with smiling faces. At the close of the evening there were a number of exhausted happy participants. A thank you goes to everyone who participated and/or contributed to this event. All your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Limited Progress Being Made in Addressing Make Shift Accommodations in Lakewood

On September 21,2010, Hope Presbyterian Church hosted a forum on homelessness – a focus on the issues and what is being done to address. Subsequent to that date limited progress has been made as reported at a H.E.L.P (Homelessness Ended through Local Partners) meeting on November 8th. The Dover Woods Health Clinic will have 60 beds available to accommodate the homeless and is receiving tentative support from elected officials in Lakewood and Toms River.

An open house was tentatively scheduled for November 18th and Pastor Steve Brigham, Lakewood homeless community leader, agreed to bring persons from the Lakewood homeless community to the open house. The success of this breakthrough is not guaranteed, there is possible strong opposition from the local community. The direction our elected officials take is based on their assessment of attitudes within the community.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING is scheduled for December 12th. This is an all member church event. We would like to get names of folks to visit that night. If you know of anyone that you would like us to visit and carol to, please call the church office and tell Veralynn, our secretary, or contact Jacquie Revier.

We will meet at the church to start at 5 PM and plan on being out till about 7 PM.
Junior youth only are meeting at 4 PM for pizza.

Kathy Johnson and her family have graciously invited the carolers to end at her house for hot cocoa and treats. When there, we will sing to their Grandma who is 101 years of age.



FELLOWSHIP NOTES by Carol Urm

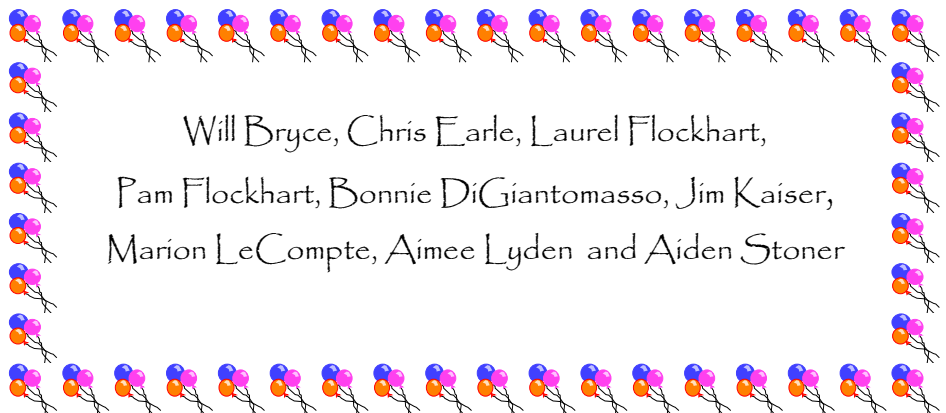
The **ZUMBA** class is continuing, after a bumpy start. It continues to meet from 6:15-7:15 PM on Tuesday nights in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$15.00 per month or \$5.00 per session if you want to pay by the week.

BALLROOM DANCING lessons are going well with three couples participating. Our own Janis Aumack is the very experienced dance instructor. The cost is \$15.00 per person for a six week course. It meets on Friday evenings from 8-9 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The present course will go through January 21st, 2011. Look for an announcement in the winter for future dates.

The last two **SALT SHAKERS** breakfasts of this year will be on November 29th and December 27th. The new year starts with us meeting on January 31st. We will meet at the Jackson Diner at 9:30 AM for all three dates. Come join in the fun, food and fellowship.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO...

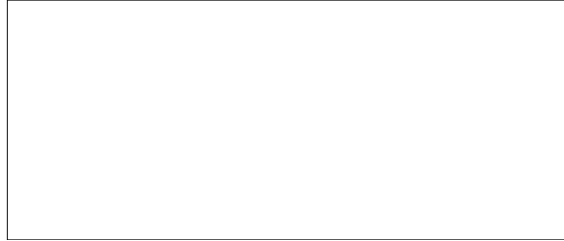
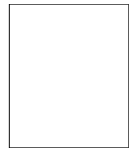
Will Bryce, Chris Earle, Laurel Flockhart,
Pam Flockhart, Bonnie DiGiantomasso, Jim Kaiser,
Marion LeCompte, Aimee Lyden and Aiden Stoner



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD

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Phone: 732-364-8318



Hope Building Hope.

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.

