

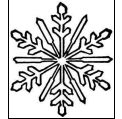
HERE'S HOPE

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

Winter Edition 2011



"Winter Wonderland Dance"



On Saturday, February 12th join us in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM where we will be trying something new. A come one, come all dance! Chris Earle has graciously agreed to provide music for all ages. Janis Aumack will give a complimentary lesson in basic ballroom dancing to those interested. Light refreshments will be served.

There will be a photo booth to remember all the fun!!

There is no cost but sign-ups are essential. Call Ann Blake 732-905-5452 or Carol Urm at 732-364-2182 Or email Ann at sportsfam12@gmail.com to join in on the fun.

Watch for details in the bulletin and on posters around the church.

This fellowship opportunity should be very exciting. Invite your friends and neighbors to kick start a goodbye to winter.



Forum on Homelessness

The Jackson Kiwanis Club, the Central Ocean Rotary Club, Shore Community Land Trust, Monmouth Presbytery and other groups will sponsor a Forum on Homelessness on January 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ocean County Library, 101 Washington Street, Toms River.

Doors open at 6:00pm

Before the forum, groups that work with the homeless will host tables to distribute information about their organizations, answer questions and present opportunities to volunteer their assistance.

An interactive discussion will follow.

Abulhawa. This is the story of one family's struggle and survival through over sixty years of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict carrying us from Jenin to Jerusalem, to Lebanon and the anonymity of America. It is a story of faith, forgiveness and of life-sustaining love. Mornings In Jenin is haunting and heart wrenching, a novel of vital contemporary importance. Lending human voices to the headlines, it forces us to take a fresh look at one of the defining political conflicts of our lifetimes.

On May 15th we will discuss the book, Little Bee by Chris Cleave. This #1 New York Times Bestseller is the story of two women. Their lives collide one fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice, the kind of choice we hope you never have to face. Two years later, they meet again—the story starts there...

The Book Study Group meets immediately following the Pot Luck Supper on the above dates. We hope you will be able to join us for lively and informative discussions.

If you have any questions about the books or the group, please see Barbara Hicks or Patty Williams.



New Members Class

If you are interested in becoming a member or want to renew your knowledge of who we are as a church, this class is for you!

We will meet January 30th and February 6th, immediately following the 11:00 Worship service.

BOOK STUDY GROUP

Hope's Book Study Group has chosen its next two books that we will be reading for our spring meetings. On March 20th we will be discussing the book, Mornings In Jenin by Susan

The 2011 per capita is \$35.00 per church member, which is an increase of just pennies from 2010. Last year, the suggestion of members remitting their per capita by their birthday was made and embraced by our members. We would like to encourage our members again to celebrate their birthday with this contribution to our church.

Just a reminder recently confirmed teens are now church members. Though a pledge is not expected from our youth members, submitting their per capita does show their willingness to stand and be counted as a member of Hope.

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	695-3008	Katie Revier
Food Pantry	367-6627	Ken Williams
Flowers	276-6925	Judy Ward
Quilting Group	363-8816	Jean Horner
Redevelopment	364-8873	Jim Marks



Committee members needed!

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

Administration	David Johnson & Chris Earle
Buildings & Grounds	Tony Travisano
Christian Education	Jacque Revier
Fellowship	Carol Urm & Chris Earle
Membership	Cathie Strauss
Stewardship	Bob Blake
Mission	Al Manus & Peggy Wuestneck
Redevelopment	Jim Marks & Jacque Revier
Worship	Donna Smith

Elder Nominating: Tony Travisano & Peggy Wuestneck

Harvest Home AdHoc Ron Hoffman & Chris Earle

Presbytery Commissioner Hillary Bryce

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.

Elders

The session is composed of elders. This doesn't have to do with age so much as those who are considered competent and wise enough to make good decisions. There are two kinds of elders, "ruling elders" and "teaching elders." The ruling elders come from the congregation and are elected to serve in three-year cycles. The teaching elder is the pastor. This person is called a teaching elder because a pastor has to go to a lot of school to get the education to preach and teach proper doctrine.

The pastor is often also called the minister or a "minister of the Word and Sacrament."

Look for more words in the next few months!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...



Dear Friends,

A new year has begun....snowy....but new nonetheless. As we begin this year I want to share with you the article below. It is written by one of my internet colleagues and it says more eloquently than I can what my office and the things in it are meant to be—both to me and hopefully to all of you. I hope my office is a welcoming place for you.

Blessings,

Barbara

The Box of Tissues

By Bass Mitchell

Like you, or probably like you, unless you are a neat freak, I have lots of “stuff” in my office: books, folders, pictures, religious items of all sorts, even a bottle of olive oil from the Mount of Olives, diplomas... I even had a shelf designated for the things that people give to me from their various trips or just because they want to – a piece of volcanic rock from Mt. Elba in Italy, a fish carved from wood, a coffee cup from London... All of them in their way are important to me. But there is something that always sits prominently on the front of my desk that may be the most important object of all...a box of tissues.

Now, don't ask me what kind. I suppose I should know and maybe even get the best. I don't. I just always try to have a box there. I've found it essential, even a basic pastoral resource to always have on hand.

You see, the box of tissues is a sign to any who enter this place that it's okay to be emotional, to be whatever and share whatever they need in my presence, that I am ready for that (even if I'm not in many ways), that it's expected.

The box of tissues is more than mere paper. It's a symbol, a sign that here is a place where masks can be taken off, if only for awhile, to be one true self, to bare one's soul and pain and joy without fear of judgment or confidence being betrayed.

Have you ever stopped to reflect on just how few places there are in this world for such a thing to take place? How many do you have?

Sometimes the box gets empty. Some weeks the tears of fear, grief, pain and even those of joy take their toll on it. Often it's the hand of someone else reaching for them to wipe those tears. Sometimes it's my hand reaching to wipe tears from my own face.

Empathy is one of the greatest gifts we can give to others. It is a gift of your self, your heart, your ears to another person. It's more than just an ability to put your self in their place and try to experience what they do. It's like Paul writes in Romans about being so in touch or in tune with each other that we feel one another's joy and pain.

For the longest time this was a very great burden to me. Yes, I do mean burden. Why? Because I was under the impression that when persons came to me I needed to have the answers, to be able to provide solutions. Being God is hard. I just wasn't up to it.

Finally I began to learn that what persons needed more often than not was a place, a person they can come to, a place that always has tissues, where they can bare their burdens, pour out their souls, not expecting ready-made solutions or never to have to bear them again. Just a rest, just a respite, just a caring place and person to share them with. Indeed, I have often found my best gift to them was focused silence and a tissue, trusting God to do God's thing.

So, the box of tissues is a sacred thing for me, a kind of sacrament, a means of grace, a means of loving and caring. When you add to that a person who is there for others, who willingly encourages and allows them to be themselves without being a know-it-all, I'm not sure we need much else in our offices.

Per Capita Explanation

(submitted by Jim Marks)

Excerpts from the Annual Notice of the Amount Due:

The 2011 Per Capita apportionment is based on the membership data submitted during the 2009 PCUSA Statistical Report filing. If the 2009 Statistical Report was not filed, then the per capita amount is based on the most recently filed membership data prior to 2009. The 2011 apportionment is \$35.00 per member and will be distributed as follows:

General Assembly	\$6.90
Synod	\$3.95
Presbytery	\$24.55

The 2011 Per Capita apportionment for your church is calculated as follows:

Members: 240 x \$35.00 per member = Apportionment: \$8,400

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the PCUSA are connected and allows its members to participate in the work of the wider church. It binds us in a covenantal relationship with one another in our church. It is the responsible way of sharing costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian community.

Per Capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian Church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians. (GA Minutes, Part 1, 1995).

Please note over the past two years that the General Assembly Per Capita apportionment increased 3.2% annually, the Synod 2.5% annually while the Presbytery decreased about 1.0% annually. Please complete the section below and return to the Presbytery of Monmouth, P.O. Box 369, Tennent, NJ 07763.

OUR PER CAPITA PAYMENT PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2011:

The Hope Presbyterian Church will be remitting \$..... in the following manner:

every month every quarter in full by..... other

Name or Signature _____ Date _____ Title: _____

The above is from the form or similar statement that we receive each year. It is provided for your information. Session will be acting upon this in the near future.

POINTS TO PONDER

Recently I was reading one of the professional magazines that I receive. It had an article about a nation wide organization that is in the midst of some restructuring and struggles. It contained phrases that I would say also fits Hope Church. The article states that an **“...organization should be effective in pursuing its mission and successful in its efforts to demonstrate its effectiveness and relevance to members and potential members. This is a critical concern, for, without the support of those the organization strives to serve, it can not exist. There is indeed strength in numbers, and the perpetuation...depends on the support it receives”** (Curt Sumner, PLS, Executive Director American Congress on Surveying and Mapping in Professional Surveyor Magazine). He was speaking of the operational and outreach costs with a “new” focus to the future. Another way of saying this is **for an organization to do what it has set out to do it must be supported by those it serves or it is doomed for failure. It takes many, not just a few; to fulfill its purpose and its effectiveness depends on everyone’s support and involvement.**

As a member of this church I ask you to ponder those points. I believe we want Hope to have more than an existence, and to continue to answer the call of Christ’s ministry wherever that may lead. Think about what you want Hope to be and then act upon what you have decided. If we **all** come together by doing what needs to be done we can move Hope Church forward instead of backtracking to the past.

Jim Marks

Clerk's Corner – January 2011

Let's begin with an administrative but necessary item. The Per Capita Apportionment for the calendar year 2011 is \$35.00 per active member. The Per Capita is an assessment made to each church for those on the active members roll (including youth members) as of December 31 of a preceding year. For 2011 it will be as of the end of 2009. The funds go toward paying the administrative costs of The General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. We encourage each member to do what they can to contribute their share, as the church as a whole is responsible for the total amount (approximately \$8,400).

The session held their planning and reorganization retreat on December 4, 2010. Please pray for them and their plans for the direction of the church and its committee structure for this year. The new elders elect were examined by the session at its December 14, 2010 meeting. At that time two of the people that you elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting for the next term on session were approved. They had attended "elder training classes" to gain an understanding of the basics of the position that God has called them to. David Johnson was ordained and installed and elder Donna Smith, who had been previously ordained, was installed on Sunday, January 9, 2011, during the 11 A.M. Worship Service. As two elders elect decided not to proceed, the 2011 Elder Nominating Committee will be working to fill the vacancies on the board.

As a reminder to you, the congregation, regular session meetings are open for you to come out and see your session at work. They are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Room in the lower level of the church at 7:00 P.M. When a scheduling conflict arises the meeting will be relocated to one of the other facilities.

I will be working on the church's annual statistical report to the General Assembly in the near future. Once completed, I am planning to include excerpts in an issue of Here's Hope. Sometimes it can be quite enlightening to see some of the changes in the membership breakdown.

We pray that all of you had a joyous holiday season, weathered the recent snow storms well, and will remember that He Is the Reason we do what we do. Now we look to 2011 with hope, faith, a renewed spirit, and a renewed vigor for the many challenges that lie ahead.

In His Service,

James S. Marks, Clerk
Submitted by Nancy Jean Rossnagel

"Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling" by Hector Berlick

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.

Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.

Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care. Blessed Jesus we implore thee, with humble lore and holy fear, in the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here.

May the shepherds lowly calling - ere to thy heart be dear.

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild.

Guard ye well your heavenly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child. God go with you, God protect you and guide you safely through the wild.

The above anthem was sung by the Ocean County College Chorus at their Christmas concert. Nancy Jean Rossnagel found the words particularly moving and wished to share them with everyone.

WE ARE COLLECTING INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS AND CANS OF COFFEE FOR THE VETERAN'S AFFAIRS OFFICE ON ROUTE 70 IN LAKEWOOD. ITEMS COLLECTED PROVIDE VETERANS WITH REFRESHMENTS WHILE THEY ARE SEEKING HELP. OUR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDE MONEY TO BUY SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN REFRESHMENTS IN THIS SITUATION.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE RED MILK CRATE IN THE NARTHEX. MANY THANKS IN ADVANCE, KEN WILLIAMS



MISSION NEWS

We recently received the following note from a family served by the Interfaith Hospitality Network, shared by Patty Martin, Christ United Methodist Church.

*Dear Volunteers of Hope Church,
Thank you so much for all that you have done and continue to do. Just spending time or cooking a meal for families like mine makes such an impact on our lives.*

God Bless

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the mission committee of Hope Church, thank you for your generosity in assisting families who are struggling financially this Christmas. Lots of gifts were given to the Lakewood Parent Resource Center, and a child guest of the Interfaith Hospitality Network received some very useful and great gifts.

The generosity of our congregation never ceases to amaze me! Thanks to Veralynn for arranging the pick-up/delivery with the Lakewood Parent Resource Center, and to Jessica Johnson for delivering the Interfaith Hospitality Network gifts to the appropriate party.

Hope has lots of resources, our most critical one sometimes is time. Thank you for sharing yours through your contributions, be they tangible or intangible.

Pam Flockhart

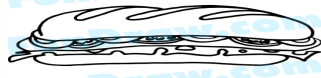
Mission Committee

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE

The youth groups will be taking orders for the Super Bowl Sub Sale. The proceeds will support the 2011 Mission trip to Maine this summer.

You may place your order on either January 23rd or 30th after any worship service. For \$7.00, you get ½ sub (your choice of turkey, roast beef, or Italian), chips and a soda. Please give your support to this worthy fundraiser.

Delivery will be made on February 6th after services. Questions can be answered by Peggy Wuestneck or Jacquie Revier.



Stewardship

Dear Members,

If you haven't returned your pledge cards (yearly & Three Year Building Campaign) please do so as soon as possible. If you have already returned your pledge. thank you!!

I would like to try to convey how important the act of pledging is. For many years, I myself didn't bother to return my pledge card. It wasn't until a conversation with an Elder, who explained my pledge's significance, that I realized the importance of pledging to my church.

He explained, when I filled out my pledge card, I am stating that Hope Church is my church, this is where I choose to worship the Lord with my family, and to be proud to stand up and be counted.

The amount of pledge is between you and the Lord, but please remember everything is already his including the building we call Hope Church.

In His Service
Robert Blake



Dancing

A new Ball Room dance class will be organized when we have interested participants. The six week course is \$15.00 per person. We would like to have a minimum of three couples to resume this offering. Janis Aumack, a member here, is the instructor. She has 25 year experience with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios. Janis has graciously donated her time with proceeds going to Hope Church. If you are looking for evenings out filled with fun and dance, sign up in the narthex of the church. Classes would be held on Friday evenings.



Zumba Classes are cancelled



Welcome to Fellowship Activities for 2011

Elders Carol Urm and Chris Earle remain as the chairpersons for the committee. The committee meets at noon on the first Tuesday of each month, in the Fellowship room downstairs in the church. We brown bag our lunch, and as we munch we go through our monthly agenda.

New members are always welcome and happily received to these working sessions. Please speak to either chairperson and/or Reverend Hicks if you have interest in joining the committee. Just come without notice if you wish. Any and all suggestions for future activities are graciously received.

Salt Shakers Breakfast 9:30 AM Jackson Diner

corner of Hope Road and Route 527

Weather permitting

- January 17th** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- January 31st** Regular last of the month
- February 21st** Presidents Day
- February 28th** Regular last of the month

Covered Dish Dinner ~ Fellowship Hall

We are hoping for no ice or snow.

Sunday, January 16th @ 5:30 PM

Super Bowl Indoor Tailgate Party

Sunday, February 20th @ 5:30 PM

Presidents Day - Soup & Sandwiches

Wear your Red, White, Blue!

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO...



January

Ayla May Earle, Nico Ferriolo, Fred Flockhart, Rachel Gill, Geoffrey Green, Barbara Hicks, Tom Kaiser, Beth Magee, Carol Mason, Lois Sievewright, Marilyn and Samantha Strauss

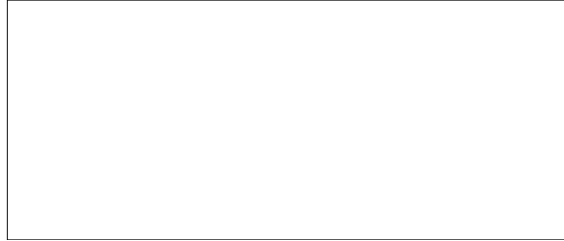
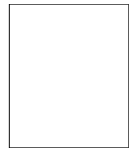
February

Robert Blythe, Jarret DiGiantomasso, Mikki Hayes, Chris Hicks, Niel Huy, Kathi Johnson, Michael Revier Jr., Bridget Schleper, Sarah Strauss, Jillian Travisano,

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD

Hope Church
617 Hope Chapel Road
Lakewood, NJ 08701

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.

