

HERE'S HOPE

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

June / July 2011

Vacation Bible School

Save the date for the week of August 8-12 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 AM-noon each day and open till 3 for those who can stay longer.

**BEGINNING JUNE 12TH
SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE
IS AT 10:00.**

WELCOME BACK BARBARA!!!!

On June 8th, the Wednesday Bible Study is hosting a luncheon to welcome our Pastor Barbara Hicks back from surgery and rehabilitation. We will gather to share lunch at noon, in the manse.

Luncheon sandwiches and beverages are being provided for a \$5.00 donation. We are asking you bring one item of fruit for a desert that we will all make together. If you are interested in joining us call Cathie Strauss at 732-363-5985 for arrangement details. All church members are welcome.

Summer Visitation Program

Our visitation team, **Ambassadors of Hope Church**, will begin a summer visitation program June 26th. When you are called upon to arrange a visit with the team, please say "yes" and greet them with a willingness to share your thoughts and opinions.

It is our goal to visit and encourage renewal of membership activity. The growth of this church depends on your commitments. The summer months are noted traditionally by low attendance at worship services. Please show support by joining us each and every Sunday at 10 AM.

Friendship Day and Annual Church Picnic

Calling all members, June 12th is a DAY OF HOPE AND RENEWAL. Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to join us in fellowship, love, and lots of fun!

Beginning with **worship at 10 AM** we gather to give God our praise and commitment to this church fellowship. The annual church picnic will follow the worship service at Pine Park. We reserved picnic area #2, at the rear of the park

WORSHIP NEWS

Recently, we had a little worship service emergency. On May 15th our minister, Barbara Hicks was recuperating from her recent knee surgery and our Associate Pastor, Lynn Manilla was suffering from kidney stones. Due to both ministers being unable to preach that day, members of the session and congregation stepped up to ensure that there was a worship service for both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. They both went smoothly and were warmly received. I wanted to say Thank You to all involved in making the services proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We would especially like to thank Jim Marks for helping to provide the sermon, Chris Earle and Cathie Strauss for leading the 11:00 service, Bill Kaufhold for preparing the 9:30 service and our lay readers, Nancy-Jean Rossnagel and Ed Chertowsky.

Everyone truly showed the meaning of community.

Donna Smith
Worship 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 | 942-0780 | Tammi Beyer |
| 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 |

Calendar of events:

- Summer Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00
- 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!
- Wednesday afternoons Quilting 1:00
- Thursday evenings Youth Choir practice 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday evenings Adult 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 rundown of the lingo you are likely to hear in a Presbyterian church that you may not have heard in another church.

General Assembly

Every two years all the presbyteries in the country elect commissioners or representatives to a meeting of the General Assembly. The General Assembly makes decisions for the church as a whole. This is where Presbyterians become a national rather than a local church.

Commissioners

These are the folks, a proportionate number of ministers and elders, elected by the presbyteries to go to General Assembly. Rather than being instructed in how to vote at the Assembly by their presbytery, the commissioners as a body seek to discern the will of the Holy Spirit.

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 | David Johnson & Chris Earle |
| Buildings & Grounds | Tony Travisano |
| Christian Education | Jacque Revier |
| Fellowship | Carol Urm & Chris Earle |
| Membership | Cathie Strauss |
| Stewardship | Bob Blake |
| Mission | 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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...



Dear Friends:

One of the things we are taught in our society is that we need to be in control of our lives. We want to find the job we want and to live where we want and to buy the house of our dreams, marry the person who is our soul mate and raise beautiful, intelligent and talented children. For the most part we all can realize some of those things during our lifetime.

Over this past year I have come to realize that the control we believe we have is tenuous at best. As you all know I have had two surgeries since last July and now I have two new knees. After years of limping and staying on the sidelines and enduring greater and greater pain from arthritis, I bit the bullet and became the latest in my family to replace my aching knees. To date my mother, sisters, aunts and uncle have all had their knees replaced and I recently heard from a younger cousin that her knees were getting worse and worse.

The first surgery went quite well and within two weeks I was home from the hospital and rehab and going to outpatient physical therapy. With that in mind, I went back for the second knee replacement just after Easter. Unfortunately this time was different as I ended up with a spinal headache from the anesthesia which was not diagnosed until 5 days after surgery. I was then transferred from rehab to the hospital where I spent three pain-filled days waiting for the Coumadin level to drop enough for the docs to perform a blood patch which is the only way to stop the headache. Then it was back to rehab.

During this time I came to realize that when your body isn't working the control you felt you had in your life pretty much goes out the window. I was at the mercy of the doctors and nurses and lab technicians to do just about everything for me because I was totally incapacitated. All I wanted was to be free from the excruciating pain in my head and in my knee. For someone like me who likes to have control over my life, it was a very humbling experience.

What I also learned is that there are others in this world who are willing to step up to help when we must give up and let go. First were my dear friends—whom I won't name here but who know who they are. They were there every day to care for me and to make me feel more comfortable. Then there are the health care workers whose gentle caring hands helped me do all the things I could not do for myself.

Their understanding of what I was going through made the journey easier for me.

Finally, there were all of you who supported me in my need to have the surgery; who sent cards which so brightened my day; who brought meals—more than once—to my home so that my family and I could eat; who visited me in the hospital, in rehab and at my home. Those visits were lifelines to me during the long recovery process. There are not words enough to thank each of you and all of you for your love and care for me.

Our loving God has breathed into us the breath of life and there is nothing more precious than that. Even through the haze of pain, I knew that God was with me. I remember suggesting to God on more than one occasion that I was ready for the pain to go away **now!** When I got back to rehab and the nurses found out I was a clergy, I had several of them come in and talk with me about their lives and the things that trouble them. I found that to be fun and a wonderful way to connect with my caregivers on a deep level. And, I always love sharing the good news of God's love to folks I meet.

All in all my experiences with surgery and recovery have left me with a greater appreciation for the miracle God has given us in our bodies and how for most of our lives they work quite well. It has also helped me understand even more that even when we human beings think we are in control of our world in reality it is God who is in control and that gives me comfort and hope for our future.

This summer let us at Hope renew our commitment to the wonderful Creator and on every Sunday morning, let us fill those pews!

Peace,

Barbara

BOOK STUDY GROUP

Hope's Book Study Group will discuss the book, Little Bee by Chris Cleave. This #1 New York Times best seller 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 will meet in early summer, after Pastor Hicks returns (date to be announced). 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 speak with Patty Williams.

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 in an economy characterized by continuing significant unemployment.

Our thanks to Ken Williams for delivering the collected donations on a regular basis.

The box is always in the narthex and ready to be filled!

FRIENDSHIP DAY ~ A DAY OF HOPE AND RENEWAL

Dear Members and Friends,

The Session of Hope cordially invites you to participate in Friendship Day, June 12th. This Sunday event will couple our Annual Church Picnic with an exciting outreach into our community of friends and neighbors. It is an opportunity for our community of faith to show what a great fellowship of Christians can accomplish for our church. Nationally, attendance in worship services and activities has diminished. This is a chance for us to invite those people with whom we work and play and associate with to join our church for a day of worship, fun and fellowship. You are the key.

These cards of invitation are yours to hand out at will to someone who might like to accompany you to church on Sunday, June 12th. The day will begin with the worship service at 10 AM, and then the picnic at Pine Park.

Be a Friend, Invite a Friend

E-Mail recipients may pick up their invitation cards after church worship services

Mission Trip

In July our youth will be traveling to Calais, Maine, to join with other youth from around the country to participate in a mission outreach program to families experiencing hardship in an economically depressed part of our country. Our young people will have the opportunity to work with children as well as an opportunity to join in specific work projects. Their adventure begins on July 3rd and ends on July 10th. Please pray for these sixteen volunteers.

There will be no Covered Dish Supper in June. Don't forget, worship service is at 10:00. We wish everyone a very happy Father's Day!

It takes **\$2,687.50** each week to run the church. Even though you go on vacation, we are still here. Please remember your pledge this summer.

ROAD RALLY and SCAVENGER HUNT

Exciting new fun!

Saturday, June 18th at 1 PM, the Fellowship committee is sponsoring a road rally/scavenger hunt planned and set-up by Colleen Crawford. We will meet at the fellowship hall and arrange ourselves into groups of four. Colleen will give us lists and directions.

The car driver must be at least 25 years of age because of insurance.

Each person is asked to bring, a non perishable item that can be a part of an Italian dinner.

Sign up with Carol Urm 732-364-2182 or Colleen Crawford 732-370-3648.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion gathering. Don't miss out on the fun!

BLUEBERRY PANCAKES!!!!!

We challenge you to see how many words you can make out of the above heading!

Why? Because on Sunday July 31 after the 10:00 am service, we will be serving up all you can eat Blueberry Pancakes in Fellowship Hall. There will be games and fun for everyone!

The cost is \$3.00 per person with a family limit of \$15 for delicious all you can eat Blueberry Pancakes! When you buy your ticket you can submit your list for judging. The winner will receive a prize and bragging rights!

Please mark your calendars for this great day at Hope Church!

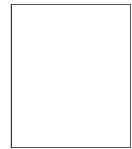
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD

Hope Church
617 Hope Chapel Road
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Phone: 732-364-8318

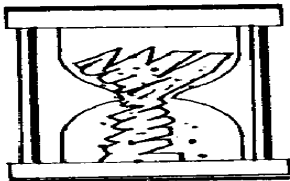


Hope Building Hope.

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 2011 are as follows:
Monday through Thursday: 10:00-2:00
Friday: Off
She is always available by telephone, or cell phone.

