

April 2018

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# The Messenger

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY

Easter proclaims many messages. Here's one I heard in the form of a sermon title by one of my pastor-mentors Keith Brown.

***"Easter means . . . You have a Job!"***

This is good news. It is great news. Especially those people . . . I am one of them . . . who have experienced unemployment. Who have had the experience of the 'pink slip'. The experience of being and feeling down and depressed over lack of something to do. Something that carries some kind of meaning.

Since I turned 65 some years ago, many people have asked me, *"George, when are you going to retire?"*

It's a logical question. Most of my seminary classmates have retired. The reason I don't retire is, for one, I love the work I am engaged in. (Thank you, Hopewell people!) Another. I am scared to retire because I have lost track of the men I have buried within one year into retirement. Upon retirement, many men . . . and women . . . struggle to find something meaningful to do with their lives. And so they become bored. Some become depressed. Some live day to day wondering, *"What do I do with my life?"* I love the word of a woman in one of my congregations who said to me after experiencing six months of her husband's retirement: *"I married him for better or for worse . . . BUT not for lunch!"*

***Easter means . . . You have a job.*** Jesus is NOT into unemployment for His followers. And Jesus doesn't give out 'pink slips'. In Jesus' economy . . . He is an advocate and cause of 100% employment. And what am I talking about? Check out these post-resurrection texts. Listen to Jesus' words . . .

***"As the Father has sent me . . . even so I am sending you."*** (John 20:21)

***"Go and tell . . ."*** (Matthew 28:10)

***"Go...and make disciples."*** (Matthew 28:19)

***"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth"*** (Acts 1:8)

And check out the *behavior* of Jesus' followers in the Book of Acts. (One of my favorite books in the Bible)

Peter preached a life-transforming sermon in Acts 2 that motivated 3000 people to get baptized.

A multitude of disciples gathered in small groups...house churches...that produced powerful apostles---sent people---who went forth and impacted the world with the Gospel. (Acts 2:41-47)

Peter, John and other disciples/apostles continued the healing ministry of Jesus. (Acts 3:1-10)

Saul of Tarsus has a major change in his 'job description'. He changes from persecutor of Jesus to strong advocate and apostle of Jesus! (Acts 9)

And the story goes on and on. And note what the apostle states in Ephesians 2:10 ***" . . . We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."***

***Easter means . . . You have a job.*** A calling. A *vocare*. An important work to do in and for God's Kingdom. The opportunities for work and ministry are legion. And Jesus aims for a 100% employed community called. Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

Let it be so . . . *George*

## NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY

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### Will You Be a Soul Friend

“For where **two** or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

Friends are a wonderful gift from God. “Soul Friends” are an even greater blessing, because God is in their midst. This spring the Nurture & Growth ministry is hoping to bloom a garden of soul friends by pairing together two seekers to meet, talk and support one another on his or her spiritual journey.

We invite every person in our congregation to connect with another in a new and exciting way. We will randomly pair interested men with men and women with women to enter into this new soul friend relationship of fellowship and spiritual growth. We will offer some suggestions, like meeting once a month, however, this partnership will be joined by the Spirit and thus can go in any direction. We envision the pairs meeting for the season of spring through the fall and seeing where God leads from there. This just might be another way God uses us to reach people outside of the church, for once we are comfortable sharing our stories with each other, we will be better equipped disciples.

It is easy to become a Soul Friend. Just give your name, phone number and email to Lucy in the church office, Cathy Peterson, Bonnie Altieri, Laurie Bleickardt, Linda Stephan, Phil Ludeke, or Barbara Pauley. It's that simple. We will literally draw the names out of a hat on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour. You will get the contact information for your partner and some resources to help get you started. God will do the rest!

### Wisdom and Wonder in April

**April 8 - Drew Mangione**

#### *Confessing our Faith (The Nicene Creed)*

The first confession in the Presbyterian Book of Confessions is the Nicene Creed. As these confessions are affirmed in the PC(USA) to guide the study and interpretation of scripture, it is important to look at how an early Christian confession and its history can answer questions we have today about our beliefs and also the questions that non-Christians have about our faith.

**April 15 & 22 - Dr. Richard Fox Young**

**April 29 - Dr. Nancy Duff**

#### *Vocation and the Lives We are Called to Lead*

In this session we will explore four aspects of Christian vocation: (1) We are called into being for a divinely appointed purpose. (2) We are called to glorify God in all that we do. (3) We are called to create a space where others can glorify God. (4) We affirm the freedom of God to call individuals to different purposes and tasks. We will discuss how each of these four aspects of vocation can inform our personal and public lives of faith.

### Women's Retreat to LBI - April 6th - 8th

Space is still available. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email [cpeterson@hopewellpres.org](mailto:cpeterson@hopewellpres.org).

## HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (HPW)

### HPW SPRING RUMMAGE SALE April 28-30

*“From Our House to Yours”*

It's time once again to go through your closets for all that unwanted clutter. We accept clean clothing in good condition, books, jewelry, toys, household items and small appliances in good working order. We do **NOT** accept shoes, plastic cups and bottles with advertising logos, magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias, computer monitors, computers, typewriters, mattresses or large appliances. **Also, please start saving plastic and paper bags.**

**DONATIONS** may be dropped off at the church beginning Sunday, April 29th after 3:00 pm (no sooner, please!) through noon on Wednesday, May 2nd. Please help out the sorters by bringing your clothing, toys and household items in separate bags or boxes. Please note, when you bring in your donations, you will be responsible for dropping them off in the area that they will be sold (for example, toys in the toy room). Volunteers will be there to help out those that need it. Large items may be accepted, but please call Carol Krystek (908-788-8186) for approval before bringing them.

**VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE!** Many volunteers are needed to make this sale a success every year. If you can't help during the week, please consider coming Sunday afternoon to set up clothes racks and tables, or sign up for Saturday afternoon after the sale to be part of the clean-up crew. During the week we need people to make soups and desserts for our hard workers. Come Monday through Wednesday to help sort and arrange donations. During the sale, we need baggers, checkers, and reorganizers -- and of course, shoppers too! **SIGNUP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

Please consider getting involved in this important church wide event. Spread the word in the community, at school, or work so that we will have lots of customers during the sale.



### Join other women and see Steel Magnolias! Tuesday, May 15, 2018

An immediate critical and popular hit in its premier production in New York, **Steel Magnolias** revolves around the lives of a group of gossipy southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor. A Comedy/Drama with sharp, funny dialogue, lovable characters, and a truly touching ending, **Steel Magnolias** received rave reviews on Broadway.

Cost: \$57.50 (\$64 if less than 20)

**TICKET PRICING INCLUDES SHOW, TABLE-SERVED ENTRÉE, DESSERT BUFFET, COFFEE, HOT TEA, TAX AND GRATUITY.**

Sign up in Fellowship Hall By April 30<sup>th</sup>. If we have fewer than 20 people other groups will be contacted to fill the remaining spots.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH 27, 2018

- Approved the increase in amount taken from Memorial Funds from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to pay for the windows in the Education Building; and Session will accept additional monies from the congregation as "Designated Giving" to offset the costs.
- Session commits to support the Christ centered Nursery School (Creative Connections Play School) for three years if needed.
- Presbyterian Women of New Brunswick Presbytery will have it's Spring Gathering at Kingston Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 14 from 9:30 to 12:30 pm. See the flyer in Fellowship Hall for details if you are interested.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## Boot Scootin Square Dance & Chili Dinner

**Saturday, April 14th**  
**6:00—9:00 PM**

All are invited! Ages 0-106

Please join us as we eat together from 6:00-7:00 PM and welcome a professional Square Dance Caller from 7:00-9:00 PM. You may choose to wear cowboy boots but you are welcome to come in any shoes that are comfortable for you. Not a dancer? Come anyway and enjoy the atmosphere. Take pictures at our photo booth, supplied with props like cowboy hats and boots.

Please invite your friends and neighbors!



## BE A PART OF IT!

**MISSION TRIP 2018**  
**TO CUMBERLAND, MD**  
**JULY 8 - 14, 2018**

Contact the Church Office for a registration form. Submit your registration with a non-refundable deposit of \$100. Non-members will pay an additional \$100. The minimum age to participate is 14. Youth scholarships are available. Questions??? Email [drobbins@hopewellpres.org](mailto:drobbins@hopewellpres.org).



# YOUTH RETREAT - MARCH 9-11, 2018



# YOUTH RETREAT - MARCH 9-11, 2018



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY

### BLOOD DRIVE - Saturday, April 28th

from 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Once again we are working through Miller-Keystone Blood Center (formerly called Community Blood Council of NJ) located in Ewing to hold a Blood Drive at our church. The Bloodmobile will be parked on Louellen Street from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM to receive donations. Contact Lucy in the Church Office to make an appointment (466-0758) or go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/41706hpres>



Are you aware of how our building is being used? Check the newsletter each month for a list of scheduled activities.

\* shows Community Event

#### Master HPC Calendar of Events

**Sundays** — Wisdom & Wonder (9:15 AM), Worship (10:30 AM) & Coffee & Fellowship (11:30 AM)

4/3	*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)		
4/4	Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)	4/14	Chili Dinner & Square Dance (6:00 PM)
	Staff Meeting (11:00)	4/17	Fiber Friends (12:00 PM)
	Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)		*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)
	PNC (7:00 PM)	4/18	Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)
4/5	*Flying Club (10:00 AM)		Staff Meeting (11:00)
	Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)		Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)
	Praise Band (6:30 PM)		*Cub Scout Pack Meeting (6:00 PM)
	Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)		PNC (7:00 PM)
4/6	Journeyman Bible Study (7:00 AM)	4/19	*Flying Club (10:00 AM)
4/10	*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)		Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)
	*Cub Scout Committee (7:00 PM)		Praise Band (6:30 PM)
	Facilities & Finance (7:00 PM)		Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)
4/11	Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)	4/20	Journeyman Bible Study (7:00 AM)
	Staff Meeting (11:00)	4/22	Daisy Meeting (4:00 PM)
	Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)	4/24	*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)
	*Cub Scouts (6:30 PM)		Session (7:30 PM)
	Board of Deacons (7:00 PM)	4/25	Friends & Followers Too (9:30 AM)
	*Central Jersey Modern Quilt Guild (7:00 PM)		Staff Meeting (11:00)
	PNC (7:00 PM)		Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM)
	Ruth Circle (7:30 PM)		PNC (7:00 PM)
	*Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM)		Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM)
4/12	*Flying Club (10:00 AM)	4/26	*Flying Club (10:00 AM)
	Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)		Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)
	Praise Band (6:30 PM)		Praise Band (6:30 PM)
	Brownie Meeting (6:30 PM)		Brownie Meeting (6:30 PM)
	Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)		Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)
4/13	Journeyman Bible Study (7:00 AM)	4/27	Journeyman Bible Study (7:00 AM)
		4/28	Blood Drive (9:00 AM)
		4/29	Rummage Sale Donations Start

## HPC HISTORY

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### OUR FIRST MEMBERS

The organizing meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Hopewell was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1877 in the new chapel (79 West Broad Street).

Everyone who joined was already a church member somewhere else! Thirty-four members were received from eight other churches: the Presbyterian churches of Pennington, Titusville, Ewing and Stockton, and the Reformed churches of Blawenburg, Raritan, Haarlingen and Millstone. Five elders and three deacons were elected.

The Brock and Burrow families  
invite you to the Memorial Service on May 17, 2018 at 11:30 AM  
in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church Sanctuary  
to celebrate the life of Frank M. Brock,  
husband to Margaret Brock,  
father of Cathe Burrow, Bonnie Brock, and John Brock,  
and grandfather of Nicola Burrow, Rose Ellen Brock and Lily Brock.

### PASTORS IN THE PAST

As the Pastor Nominating Committee goes about its work, this seems like a good time to take brief look back at the ministers who have served this church since it was established in 1877. This table, updated to March 2018, lists 31 people: 14 Pastors, five Associate Pastors, seven Interim Pastors and five “Supply” Pastors.

The length of service of our senior pastors has varied greatly through the years. Pride of place goes to the Reverend John Ginter, who was our pastor for almost 33 years between 1928 and 1963 (with 18 months away during World War II). Close behind is his successor the Rev. Robert Beringer with over 20 years’ service. In contrast, our very first pastor, the Rev. Minot Morgan, served the shortest term of all at only 18 months.

There is often an assumption that pastors in the past tended to stay longer with their congregations than they do today, but is this really the case? It’s true that Rev. E.S. Brearley was here for almost 18 years between 1909 and 1927, and Rev. James Kerr served for close to ten years in the 1890’s. However, each of the five other pastors from before 1928 served for less than three years each! The “average” length of service, to the extent that it is meaningful, is 8.7 years, a number most nearly reached by our most recent senior pastor, Michael Capron.

Between 1975 and 2006 we were fortunate to be served almost continuously by a succession of able Associate Pastors (Burt Parry, Kim Richter, Kevin Dill, Michael Bruner and Chris Kile), who were with us for terms ranging from 11 to just over two years. It is also important to remember our six Interim Pastors (including our current one!), two of whom were with us for over two years, who each shepherded us through these in-between times in their own way.

Ian Burrow

## HPC HISTORY

### Pastors Who Have Served at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Pastor	REV. MINOT S. MORGAN	4/06/1878	10/01/1879
ss	REV. WILLIAM H. ROBERTS	10/1/1879	2/02/1881
Pastor	REV. BENJAMIN P. JOHNSON	2/02/1881	10/10/1886
ss	REV. JAMES B. KENNEDY	1/23/1887	6/01/1889
ss	REV. S. E. WEBSTER	1889	1890
Pastor	REV. JAMES R. KERR	6/12/1891	12/31/1900
Pastor	REV. LINIUS L. STROCK	5/12/1901	1/11/1904
Pastor	REV. M. F. JOHNSON	6/18/1904	3/4/1907
Pastor	REV. S. C. DICKSON	5/31/1907	3/31/1909
Pastor	REV. E. S. BREARLEY	12/14/1909	10/14/1927
ss	REV. VV. B. SHEDDAN	10/14/1927	4/20/1928
Pastor	REV. JOHN H. GINTER	4/20/1928	6/18/1943
Pastor	REV. DR. E. J. JURJI	6/18/1943	12/13/1945
Pastor	REV. JOHN H. GINTER	12/31/1945	7/1/1963
Interim	REV. DR. WILLIAM L. TUCKER	8/1/1963	2/28/1964
Pastor	REV. ROBERT A. BERINGER	3/11/1964	7/31/1984
Associate	REV. BURTON PARRY, Our 1st Associate Pastor	1/25/1975	1/19/1986
ss	REV. ALLAN R. WINN	12/10/1984	4/30/1985
Associate	REV. KIMBERLY RICHTER	4/13/1986	8/31/1988
Pastor	REV. DOUGLAS J. BROUWER	12/8/1985	6/23/1991
Associate	REV. KEVIN J. DILL	10/15/1989	8/25/1996
Interim	REV. CLARENCE TWIGG	9/22/1991	1/1992
Interim	REV. DR. E. ROYDEN WEEKS	5/1992	9/1992
Pastor	REV. DR. SCOTT R. A. STARBUCK	11/15/1992	2/9/1997
Interim Associate	REV. MICHAEL M. BRUNER	8/19/1996	1/13/1999
Interim	REV. DR. ALVIN DESTERHAFT	4/5/1997	6/6/1999
Pastor	REV. DR. VIRGINIA B. SMITH	5/2/1999	1/16/2005
Associate	REV. JOHN CHRISTIAN. KILE	7/15/2001	12/3/2006
Designated Associate	REV. MICHAEL D. PREWITT: Montgomery Ministries	11/9/2003	12/15/2005
Interim	REV. WILLIS F. KEARNS, JR.	1/15/2006	6/30/2008
Pastor	REV. MICHAEL P. CAPRON	10/26/2008	7/31/2016
Interim	REV. GEORGE BETZ	12/1/2017	
	ss = stated supply	Updated on March 23, 2018	

# CHURCH FAMILY



## WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

As of March 27, 2018

### Income

Tithes & Offerings	\$	60,377.00
Per Capita	\$	3,170.03
Flower Donations	\$	1,290.00
Rental Income	\$	8,100.00
Building Usage	\$	615.00
Charitable Grants	\$	1,828.00
Small Group Resources	\$	150.00
From CCP School Payroll	\$	8,288.48
Banking Interest	\$	17.23

Total Revenue \$ 83,835.74

### Expense

Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$	30,782.35
Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$	37,026.95
Nondiscretionary Costs	\$	12,178.70

#### Facilities

General Bldg Maintenance	\$	870.16
86-88 West Broad St	\$	3,978.60
Manse	\$	1,818.26

#### Community Engagement

11% Tithes & Offerings	\$	7,532.47
Deacons		
Mission Trip Deposit	\$	500.00
Family Promise	\$	54.00
Boy Scouts Troop 71	\$	750.00
Worship & Stewardship	\$	699.41
Hospitality & Fellowship	\$	152.63
Nurture & Growth	\$	5,222.94
Church Support	\$	1,614.37

Total Expense \$ 103,180.84

Profit/Loss \$ (19,345.10)

### Account Balances

General	\$	56,942.47
Payroll	\$	10,098.40

### COFFEE HOUR

4/1	Easter
4/8	Armington
4/15	Choir & Praise Band
4/22	Beatty
4/29	Scheetz

### COMMUNION

4/8  
\*Pat Swartz / Joanne Tonkin  
Linda Stephan / Carlana Sargent

### USHERS

4/1	Sandy Sherrard & Suzanne Holdcraft
4/8	Ian & Cathe Burrow
4/15	Doug & Linda Robbins
4/22	Jackson Family
4/29	Joanne Hornberger & Mary Ann Consoli

## WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY HPC MUSIC NEWS



### Happy Easter!

I hope you had a meaningful Lenten season, and wish you the happiest of Easters! What a wonderful time of year to celebrate God's great gift to humankind. As we celebrate this gift, God's creation is being restored before our eyes – grass will be greening, leaves coming out, and, of course, we have the flowers. Easter and flowers: what a perfect combination! And – please, God – no more snow!

One of my earliest childhood memories of Easter is finding a basket of candy downstairs on Easter morning – not particularly biblical, but it helped hook me in and got me excited about the holiday. And from those earliest Easters, I remember the flowers that my Mom and Dad would bring home every Spring to celebrate. As a gardener, I now know that these were all bulbs: daffodils, tulips and hyacinths primarily. I was most impressed by the tulips and their range of colors, but the heavy fragrance was not a tulip scent – it was the hyacinths. What an amazing scent – to this day I can't smell hyacinth without thinking of Easter. Hyacinth = candy = Easter = family, it's all mixed together in a wonderful mess of happy memories.

Now, though, I no longer am interested in eating jelly beans – I may eat a couple “peeps” for old time's sake. And a chocolate egg with peanut butter or coconut is a wonderful treat. I will still enjoy the hyacinths, though, and that fragrance will take me back in time to the earliest Easters I spent with my Mom and Dad and extended family. And I will be reminded of all the past Easters I have had the privilege of helping lead service music, and have enjoyed the work of the Flower Committees and their decoration of the sanctuaries I've played in. What a wonderful set of traditions – what an amazing, all-important holiday: our celebration of the greatest gift of all time!

Happy Resurrection! Happy Forgiveness! Happy New Life! Happy Easter!

### Hymn Spotlight – “Lamb of God”, #518

I know that many Christians are grateful to Twila Paris for her wonderful composition “Lamb of God”, which we will sing after George's Proclamation on Easter Sunday. After the trumpet, and the loud opening hymn, it's a chance to reflect and be a bit quieter. Let me leave you with the third verse and refrain of this beautiful song as a short devotional about making Easter “personal”:

*I was so lost I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God.*

*Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.*

## CREATIVE CONNECTIONS PLAY SCHOOL



### Farm Friends

We are beginning a study on farm animals and we had special visitors at school this month! Carol and Jess Krystek stopped by with some chicks from their farm. Miss Carol explained to us the three different types of chicks and how when they grow up, some will lay white eggs and some will lay brown eggs. The children enjoyed observing the chicks hop about and several were bold enough to pick the chicks up and hold them. One child was even comfortable enough to let a chick roost on her shoulder, and then the chick rested on her back.

After the visit, we played with hoola hoops to burn off some energy. We like to try to toss bean bags through a moving hoola hoop.



# Hopewell Presbyterian Church

***The Messenger* deadline for the May issue is Sunday,  
Sunday, April 22, 2018. Email [lducko@hopewellpres.org](mailto:lducko@hopewellpres.org).**

## PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

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### Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for the birth of Kingston Alexander Miguel (grandson of Marilyn Licciardello)
- Thanksgiving for the life of Russell D. Smith
- Thanksgiving for the life of Susan Weidl
- The work of the PNC

### Intercession

- Tom F. - healing
- Karen C. - healing
- Shawn F. - healing from back injury (Judy C's son-in-law)
- Mark H. - undergoing chemo (Judy C's friend)
- Betty - healing from surgery for cancer
- Bob P. - healing
- Diane - undergoing chemotherapy (friend of Nancy T.)
- Geri - breast cancer
- Ben - post-transplant process (friend of Holly P.)
- Lorna - healing (friend of Lois R.)
- Cyndy H. - starting chemotherapy
- Debbie R. - continued comfort and strength as she continues rehabilitation at St. Lawrence Rehab (Betsy W's friend)

Hopewell Presbyterian Church  
80 West Broad Street  
Hopewell, NJ 08525

