

Hope's Chest



“You can be a real life godparent to a Cinderella who might not otherwise make it to the ball.”

What is Hope's Chest?

Hope's Chest is a new project which aims to help high school juniors and seniors in Middlesex and Mercer Counties to obtain prom dresses for the 2009 Proms.

What is being collected?

The St. Barnabas Youth Group is collecting lightly used and CLEANED:

- Prom dresses, Evening Gowns, Nice Bridesmaid Dresses
- Formal Accessories (shoes, evening bags, shawls, costume jewelry).

What will be done with the donations?

Dresses and accessories will be given to high school juniors and seniors who may not be able to afford prom dresses this coming spring.

Who can get a dress?

Students from our expanded community (e.g. South Brunswick, North Brunswick, New Brunswick, Trenton, Franklin etc...) all are welcome! You just have to present a valid student ID. **We will give out dresses and accessories while inventory lasts.**

If I want to donate a dress, what do I do?

Drop off your cleaned dresses and accessories on Saturday, 3/21/09 and Sunday, 3/22/09 from 9:00am – noon at St. Barnabas Church.

I want to come and try on a dress, what do I do?

You must be a high school junior or senior with a valid student ID. Stop by St. Barnabas church on Saturday, 4/18/09 or Sunday, 4/25/09 from 10:00am – 1:00 pm at St. Barnabas Church. Remember **We will give out dresses & accessories while inventory lasts.**

WORDS ON WORSHIP

February celebrated the last Sundays after Epiphany. Hymn Sing Service on the third Sunday of the month offered the congregation a special worship experience as our favorite hymns were sung and played with different instruments. The message of “To God Be The Glory” was inspirational and challenging. As of this writing, the last service for the month has already been planned and is very much anticipated. Using the themes of the Transfiguration of the Lord and Jesus as the Light, the Contemporary service will usher in Lent, as this will also be the venue for the **burning of last year’s palms into ashes** that will be used for the **Ash Wednesday Service** on the **25th at 7:30 p.m.** Our special altar arrangements also offer an invitation for contemplation and preparation for the cleansing and healing that the season will bring to us sinners and believers.

Lent will be commemorated in the 5 Sundays in March. The Youth Group will lead us in worship on the last Sunday (29th). As a reminder, we will participate in the **Lenten Wednesday Services** with the other area United Methodist Churches, ushering in the **Holy Week of April 5 to 11**. The following schedule of services will all take place at **7:30 p.m.**: **March 4 at Milltown UMC, March 11 at First UMC in Sayreville, March 18 at Monroe Community Church, March 25 at Conklin UMC in South River and April 1 at Alders gate UMC in East Brunswick.**

Do not forget to place your Easter Lilies orders and as you make them, remember the people that have made your faith journey colorful. As we prepare our hearts for the season of Lent, let us remember the greatest sacrifice that has been made out of God’s love for us. Consider fasting, contemplative prayers, meditative studies and each worship experience as manifestations of our whole-hearted thanksgiving and sincere praise.

In His grace and love,
Tess Camba

EASTER LILIES

Be a part of our beautiful Easter Lily Cross display. Order forms are out for Easter lilies. They are \$ 4.50 per lily. Please contact Marguerite Ruquet if you need additional information. Please fill out your forms by March 15th.

Next Step in Planning for our Education and Fellowship Addition!

As we continue to prepare for our Education and Fellowship Addition, the Facilities Planning Committee is working with RSI for guidance and expertise on our capital funding campaign. RSI has strong experience with churches. They use an overall spiritual and prayer based approach, and commit to work with us for the next 3 years. Our capital funding campaign for the Education and Fellowship Addition will dovetail with our existing annual stewardship program.

To continue with the more detailed planning for our capital funding campaign, the Facilities Planning Committee will organize a capital funding campaign leadership team from our congregation. This team will work closely with the Facilities Planning Committee and with Rev. Darrell Copeland from RSI. We are very excited about this next step in the planning process for our future ministry.

The additional education and fellowship space and the modifications to our sanctuary will help us to meet our growing ministry needs as we continue to work to create disciples for Jesus Christ. This is a very exciting time for our church as we plan together to keep growing our ministry!

Yours in His Name,

Frank Kardashian and Jessica Stehr, Facilities Planning Comm. Co-Chairs

UMW

March meeting of the UMW will begin at 700PM on Tuesday, the 10th. Since we will be celebrating the "Day of Prayer and Self Denial" we will begin one-half hour earlier. At the February meeting our ladies voted to donate \$400.00 to Interfaith Network of Care and to purchase for the food pantry, a storage closet to get the food out of the present location. Debbie feels she can rest more easily with the food out of that closet.

The date for "Strawberries and More" will be June 27th and the much requested soup sale will be after service on March 29th.

We received a letter from our little World Vision" child Claudia, she was very happy with all the little things we sent for Christmas. Now to anxiously await her reaction to Emma's doll and doll clothes. We begin Lenten season very soon leaving the joy of Christmas behind us to the victory of Jesus Christ and all our sorrow again as we live the days of suffering with him. With the suffering of so many in the world and the anguish of those without work let us all pray each day for our Heavenly Father through his son Jesus Christ to take this world again in his hands for world salvation.

In Christ,

Marguerite Ruquet, Pres.

RU Basketball Program Fundraiser-

As many of you know, for the past several years, Rutgers University has given Simpson UMC the sole privilege of selling programs at all of the home basketball games for both the men's and women's teams. We arrive at the Rutgers Athletic Center 2 hours before game time and sell the programs through half time. In return for our time and efforts, Rutgers pays us 15% of the total sales from the programs.

The 2008-2009 basketball season will end in March.

Here are the home games scheduled for March:

SUN MAR 1- MEN VS PROVIDENCE (GAME TIME 2:00PM; WE ARRIVE AT NOON)

MON MAR 2-WOMEN VS UCONN (GAME TIME 7:30PM; WE ARRIVE AT 5:30PM)

SAT MAR 7- MEN VS SOUTH FLORIDA (GAME TIME 2PM; WE ARRIVE NOON)

There are also sign-up sheets in the Church hallway.

Scott Hunter

RU Football-

As most of you are aware, the RU football stadium is being expanded and by next year the capacity of the stadium will increase by several thousand people. As a result, we will need to have more people selling programs per game.

To discuss this, and look into ways we can properly staff the games and to best cover the stadium, we will have a meeting of everyone who has sold programs in the past or plans to sell them in the future. The meeting will be Sunday March 15 immediately after church.

Please mark your calendars and plan stay for the meeting on that Sunday.

Scott Hunter

OUTREACH

Simpson UMC Fleece Jacket Sale – Order yours today!

To give us a new and stylish way to show our Simpson spirit and raise some funds to put toward our education and fellowship addition, the Facilities Planning Committee is selling zip front fleece jackets.

Jacket Design: Hunter green, full zip front, elasticized cuffs, anti-pill, 100% polyester. Adult S- 4XL. Cross & Flame logo and Simpson United Methodist Church, Old Bridge NJ embroidered on left chest.

Spring will be here soon. Stay warm on those cool Spring mornings and evenings with a new SUMC fleece jacket. They also make great gifts!

Simpson UMC Fleece Jacket Sale

Cost: \$45 per SUMC fleece jacket Number of Jacket(s) per size

_____ S _____ 2XL

NAME: _____ M
 _____ 3XL

_____ L _____ 4XL
PHONE: _____
 _____ XL

TOTAL DUE on pickup of fleece(s): \$ _____

Order forms are due Sunday, Mar 22, 2009

Please submit order forms to Jessica Stehr , or call church office, or place order forms in J. Stehr mailbox in the chapel. Fleeces can be paid at time of pickup – cash or check payable to SUMC. Fleeces will be available for pickup in late April.

COMMUNION OFFERING

Our March offering will go to the Red Bird Mission, “A witness for Christ in the Heart of Appalachia”. This mission is part of the United Methodist community and helps in many ways: education, health and wellness and housing to name a few. The people of Appalachia are some of the poorest in our country; please help us make their lives better by supporting this mission.

ELIJAH’S PROMISE

Our next date is Tuesday, March 3rd. Elijah’s continues to meet the needs of those who are in need of consistent meals to help make ends meet in this trying economic time. As such, Elijah’s continues to count on us to keep our commitment to serve these people. Please join us for 3 hours or so of wonderful service to Jesus as we tend his sheep. It is a glorious time of outreach and fellowship. Come and see how you can make a difference in someone’s life, just by serving a meal. Hope to see you there.

SOUPS ON WHEELS

We continue our monthly tradition of visitation to our brothers and sisters in Christ! This mission has grown to wonderful numbers but our ability to spend quality time with everyone is hindered by the lack of people available to go visit with us. I hope everyone who has the 3rd Thursday free will come at least once and see what joy we bring and receive as we share the love of Christ! We meet at 9am to prepare and package the lunches and are generally done by 1pm or so. It is a wonderful way to spend time together!

CHANGE FOR L.I.F.E.

We still need your spare change so we can keep on changing lives! Recently we sent one of our collections to the Christian Appalachian Project, a project also dedicated to helping the oppressed people of Appalachia. From time to time, we will use our collections for other missions besides Heifer. Your change continues to make a life saving difference in so many lives, thank you so much for your faithfulness!

EASTER BASKETS

This year is off to a quick start! Next month, we will be delivering Easter baskets already! I will post the family information in the hallway towards the end of March. Many thanks for all of your donations and love!

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Anastasio-Outreach/Missions

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

February was a good month for the youth at Simpson. In February we had a church movie night and went bowling.

March promises to be another rewarding month. As of the writing of this article, the March calendar is still being worked on but so far looks like this:

Sun Mar 1- (7-9pm)- Movie night at the church

Sat Mar 21- AimFC concert in Absecon, NJ

Sun Mar 29- Youth leads the worship service

“Inside Out” will resume practicing this month. Beginning on Tuesday March 3, “Inside Out” will practice every Tuesday from 7:30pm-9pm and every Sunday after church. There will also be a High School devotions class in the youth group room Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10am. Also, please check out the music library in the youth group room and sign out a CD of your choosing. Throughout the year the youth group participates in events focusing on missions, fun, fellowship, and fundraising, all the while growing in your faith. The youth group is open to anyone in grades 7-12, and you don’t have to be a member of Simpson UMC to be a member of the youth group. Friends are welcome as well! If you have any questions or comments about the youth group, please feel free to contact Scott by email.

Scott Hunter and Ashley Spitzer

PERKINS FUNDRAISER

We have started a new fundraising program at Perkins Pancake House. This program is very easy and very flexible. Simply go to either the Perkins on Rt. 18 in East Brunswick or the one in Eatontown, **at any time on any day you want**, and Perkins will contribute 10% of your check back to Simpson. Just present a coupon to the cashier as you pay your bill. That is all you have to do. The coupons can be found at either door of the sanctuary at church. This is a fundraiser where the money does not go back to Simpson. This fundraiser goes directly towards saving a young child’s life. All the money raised from this Perkins fundraiser will go towards the church’s sponsorship of our child Fabricio through Compassion International. So, basically, every time you eat a meal at Perkins, you are literally feeding a starving child! Please tell your friends and family members about this and pick up coupons to give to them as well.

Scott Hunter

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Beginning March 1st, running for 12 weeks. 9:00 am – 9:45 am

“The Sermon on the Mount”

The Sermon on the Mount is probably the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly it is the least obeyed. It is the nearest thing to a manifesto that he ever uttered, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and to do. The Sermon is found in Matthew’s Gospel toward the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.

Immediately after his baptism and temptation Jesus had begun to announce the good news that the kingdom of God, long promised in the Old Testament era, was now on the threshold. He himself had come to inaugurate it. With him, the new age had dawned, and the rule of God had broken into history. “Repent,” he cried, “for the kingdom of heaven is near” (Matthew 4:17). Indeed, “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom” (Matthew 4:23).

The Sermon on the Mount, then, is to be seen in this context. It portrays the repentance (the Greek meaning is “the complete change of mind”) and the righteousness which belong to the kingdom. That is, it describes what human life and human community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God. And what do they look like? Different! Jesus emphasized that his true followers, the citizens of God’s kingdom, were to be entirely different from others. They were not to take their cue from the people around them, but from him, and so prove to be genuine children of their heavenly Father.

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Contact Irene Ritz for more information @ Irene.ritz@gmail.com

Neighborhood

Daily Living in Lent as Preparation for Easter

(I would like to share with all of you the following content, a part of "Connecting Worship and Daily Living in Lent" from the webpage of the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. May this article nurture your Lenten discipline. Heasun Kim, Pastor)

Lent is a time of preparation for the initiation of people into the Christian life in baptism. It is also a time for the church to journey together toward Easter and the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. Lent is not about being miserable, sad, and funereal in anticipation of Good Friday. The Sundays of Lent are not part of the forty days of Lent and so remain "little Easters," as are all Sundays. Fasting and giving something can be part of Lenten disciplines, but so can taking on other things. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not I prepare for Easter. However, without our heart and life being ready, we may experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. The following is a resource that we may take an inward and outward journey.

So my brothers and sisters let us commit ourselves to discipline for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ. With the aid of the list below, let us make some of the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks:

Inward and Personal Disciplines: * Spend time in solitude each day. * Read a book for inner growth. * Begin to keep a journal of practical concerns, questions, and reading. * Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer. * Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them. * Take control of my life by _____ * Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus. * Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them. * Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event. * Forgive someone who has hurt me. * Other promptings.

Outward and Social Disciplines: * Take on some loving task. * Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly. * Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life. * Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service. * Give blood and recall the cross. * Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time. * Pray to God to help me resist racial prejudice and to give courage in opposing it.

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- Eulette Graham 7
- Tom Hong 7
- Helen Quackenbush 12
- Toni Bertucci 15
- Sarah Meeker 15
- Angelika Ladia 17
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LAY LEADERS LINES

Greetings in the name of Jesus! By the time you read this, we will have entered our Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service on February 25th. This was also a healing service which the congregation has been looking forward to. During Lent, we will continue our tradition of worshipping at our sister Churches. This year, we will not be hosting a Lenten service but have the honor of hearing our beloved pastor bring the message. The dates will be in the calendar, I hope you can join us as we journey to the Cross.

During Lent, we will not be having a Wednesday evening Bible study, as we will be attending service. We still have Bible study on Sunday, 9am with Irene and Wednesday, 10 am with me. The Men have a 5:45am Bible Study on Friday mornings. I cannot encourage you enough to partake of these studies; they will enrich you as grow in your faith.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Scott Hunter for all he does for us with the Rutgers Fundraising Program. Scott has the challenging duty of making sure all the games are adequately staffed and spends a lot of his personal time making phone calls to ensure our success. I would encourage the whole congregation to take a moment to thank Scott personally for all the fundraising work he does for us. He is always searching for new and exciting ways we can fund our mission work. Scott deserves our full support and we should try to make time to help whenever we can. We need EVERYONE'S help in keeping our commitments so we can continue to enjoy the fruits of our labors!

THANKS SCOTT!

We will be continuing our monthly luncheons and I hope everyone who is available will join us. This past month, we began going to Perkins so we can support our World Vision Church child. As the Church receives 10% from our total bill, this is a great way to fellowship and helps support our Church at the same time while enjoying a good meal. Once again, this fundraising project was made possible by Scott! Scott has said if we raise enough funds we can "adopt" another child and continue to save lives while eating out!

I'll save you a seat.....

Love in Christ,
Betty Curnow
Lay Leader

Where is St. Barnabas Church located?

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is located at 142 Sand Hill Road, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852, (732) 297-4607.

Who do I contact for more information?

Contact Wanda Garrin, Keri or Linda Grant, wandagarrin@verizon.net
lindafig@Comcast.net or visit www.stbarnabas-sbnj.org.

SPEAKING OF OUR MEMBERS....

Tess Camba had a heart catheterization on February 20th at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital and there were no blockages. Praise the Lord!
Christi Anne Camba will start a new job on March 2nd at Scher Plough. That's great news!

Andy Chen was deployed for two weeks to Buffalo, New York where he ran the federal command center coordinating the recovery efforts and the support services for the families of the victims of the plane crash.

Bruce and Joan Donohue moved back to Old Bridge. Welcome back!

Max Gottlieb was injured on Sunday February 22nd playing hockey. He is in Robert Wood Johnson Children's Hospital in New Brunswick with a lacerated spleen. Max needs all our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Rev. Kim was elected as a chair person of the Order of Elders of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference on February 24 at Hazlet Union Church. She will serve the Order of Elders for next 4 years. Congratulations!

Amy Layton is now the Sexton for the church. Welcome Amy!

Lisa Leitner has resigned from being Sexton for the church. Job well done Lisa.

Mary Jane Ziobro's mom Nancy Sigley passed away on February 25th. The Memorial Service is set for March 1st at First Baptist Church Union, NJ. Please pray for this family in their time of loss.

Do you have any news to share with our church family? Please submit your news to Claudia Hunter or Karen Gaunt in the church office.

Dear friends,

Thanks very much for the wonderful cards, phone calls, e-mails and visits you make to me. I appreciate it very much.

With love,

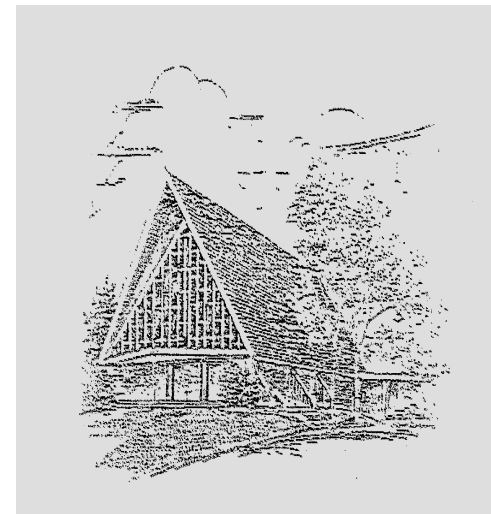
Polly Rhodes

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The Simpson Speaker

March 2009



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Rev. Dr. Heasun Kim, Pastor