

## FROM THE DEACONS' DESK

Marsha Long, Moderator

**THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS** has met and discussed plans for the year 2009. It is our intention to focus on the following missions – Our own Hope Church, Hope Creative School, Our Presbytery and our local community charities. The Board of Deacons, with Session approval, will be hosting a joint Deacon/Hope Creative School Family Fun Day. Net proceeds from the event will be divided between the School and the Deacons bar-b-que fund. Be watching for more details on **Family Fun Day scheduled for April 25!** We hope to have another fund raising event later in the year to be of direct benefit to our church. As always, we will strive to support our community missions which are in such dire need at this time. Thank you for your continued support to the Deacons' Fund!

**PLAQUE RECEIVED** – You, Hope Church Congregation, have been recognized for your support of the Rudolph Round-up program. A beautiful plaque from *Heartland for Children* was received on your behalf and is a tribute to you for your splendid participation. You helped our area foster children receive a special Christmas blessing and your generous gifts were so very much appreciated. The plaque is on display in the glass cabinet to the right of the sound room. Stop by and take a look.

**BLOODMOBILE** – The Mid- Florida Bloodmobile was at Hope Church on March 8 and is scheduled three more times this year. Those dates are: May 31, August 16 and November 11. Won't you please donate your life-giving blood to this worth cause. Units of blood credited to Hope's account are available for you or your family member and can be authorized to be deducted from Hope's account. This can be done even after a patient leaves the hospital. Also, Mid-Florida Blood Bank can work with many hospital blood banks both locally and throughout the country. To arrange for a unit/s of blood to be deducted from Hope's account, please contact **Elinor Karlson (299-2486)** or **Marsha Long (324-6307)**. If they are unavailable, you may contact the church office (324-6382). Mid-Florida Blood Bank can be contacted at (863) 297-1840 if you have any questions regarding this service or the donation process.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** – If you have a vegetable garden or fruit trees bearing more fruit than you can use, why not consider donating your extras to one of our local area missions? You can have your own “gleaning program” and help our local charities who in turn will pass your abundance on to those less fortunate. The following agencies have been contacted and state they welcome any produce you may wish to donate:

**Family Emergency Services** – 320 Avenue T NW (294-1939)

**Catholic Charities** – 532 Avenue M SW (299-7983)

**The Mission** – 180 E. Central Avenue (299-2348)

**First Presbyterian Church** – 637 6 St. NW (294-3121) – (offers a “bag lunch” program)

**Meals on Wheels** – 620-6 St. NW (299-1616)

For questions please contact **Marsha Long (324-6307)** or **Lynn Feltner (318-1752)**. Help may be available to you to get the fruit off your trees and/or to the local charities, if necessary.