

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

January 2012

How Time Flies! Happy New Year! I Can't Believe It's 2012: Pastor Doug's Reflection

As I turn the page on the calendar to this New Year, I am touched by the passing of time. When I was a teenager, I always thought that time seemed to drag. That was especially true if I had to wait for something, or was asked to do something I did not consider to be a “fun” task. As I marked graduations from various schools, a marriage, the birth of one daughter and the adoption of another I was filled with a sense of mystery and wonder. As I look back, with two daughters now adults, I wonder where the time went. It seemed those years went by in an instant.

As Linda and I are raising our granddaughter, I am reminded that time is what we make of it. I witness Faythe's resistance to bed-time; regardless of how tired she is, as she thinks she may miss something. I see her youthful impatience about things she wants. And, I see her sense of wonder with the gift of each new day and each thing she discovers; be it bright holiday lights, a pretty cloud formation, or squirrels playing as we go for walks.

But I also observe how much time she invests in things keeps her from doing other things she both needs to do and wants to do. Like many small children she often resists getting dressed and ready for school, preferring to play or watch her DVDs. I note the energy she invests in saying why she can't do what she is asked to do, though she knows, and we know she can, for she has in the past.

As I note these things about a 4 ½ year old, I confess the same is true of myself and perhaps true for many of us. There are those things we say we want to do – intend to do – that we will get around to doing at some time or another. There are things we claim are important and want to embrace in our lives. But, somehow we just don't get around to it. It seems there just isn't enough time. Or, could it be there's enough time, and we just don't wish to re-prioritize our use of time? We may put off what we say is important – because we'll get to it sometime. But, then, we say later, where did the time go?

Observing these things, I am reminded of a Bible passage that is instructive to me and perhaps to you in a prayerful way. Psalm 90:12 which reads: “**Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**” It's a prayerful verse that speaks to the lament of opportunities missed or ignored, as-well-as time, frittered away in mindless pursuits. It also speaks to how precious time is. Psalm 103:15-16 reminds us that we are “...like grass, we flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone...” It is the limitations of time that makes it precious – that makes our use of time important – that reveals our true values and commitments.

The words of the hymn, “God of our Life” might make a good prayer for us entering 2012: “God of the coming years, through paths unknown We follow thee; When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; Our refuge be. Be Thou for us in life our daily bread, Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.”

Have a Blessed New Year,

Doug

“INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY”

In times of inclement weather, especially during this upcoming winter season, or for other adverse conditions, the congregation is reminded to tune in to the following radio stations to hear if the church is closed:

WOBM, 92.7 FM
The Hawk, 105.7 FM
The Point, 94.3 FM
New Jersey, 101.5 FM



For Sunday worship services, the earliest time for such closure announcements would normally be after 7:30 AM.

You may also check the Church Website for weather related closings and cancellations by going to www.brickpresby.com



Call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation Of Brick Presbyterian Church

The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Brick Presbyterian Church will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723 starting at 12:15 (following the 11:00 worship service). The meeting will begin with a light lunch.

Business to be conducted includes the following: the receiving of annual reports from boards, committees, groups and organizations of the congregation. Other actions will include establishing the Pastor's terms of call, nomination and elect persons to serve on Session, the Board of Deacons and the Standing Nominating Committee. There will also be a review of the church's financial reports and updates on the state of the building expansion effort. The meeting will also deal with any constitutionally appropriate business brought forth by members of the congregation from the floor.

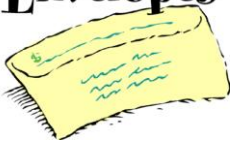
It is very important that all members of the congregation be present. Your voice and vote matter. The decisions made at this meeting affect all of us.

The Fellowship Committee
is hosting a Pancake Breakfast
on Sunday Feb 12, between services.



Offering Envelopes

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The 2012 Offering Boxes with your name on it will be in the Narthex for you to pick up for the next month. If you are unable to pick up your box and wish to receive it, please let me know. Also, if you do not have a box with your name on it and would like one, please let me know. You may contact me at financialsecretary@brickpresby.com.

Please be sure to submit all your 2011 donations by 1/1/12. I will be printing the statements after that date. I will not be able to print statements after that date. If you donate in 2011 and it is not on your statement you may still claim it on your taxes if you have a cancelled check to prove that you made out the check in 2011. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Karen!

Living with Alzheimer's : For People with Alzheimer's

A three-part interactive education program for individuals with early memory loss and their families, is to be offered in January in the Monmouth county/Ocean county region. This program is offered at no cost and is unique in that it is specifically designed for individuals diagnosed with early memory loss. This program is being presented by the Greater NJ Chapter of the Alzheimer's Assoc. If you are interested please contact Laura Hawkins, LSW, Coordinator, Early-Stage services at 973-568-4300 x115



Confirmation Classes will begin on Wednesday nights starting January 4th from 6 to 7 p.m.

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH



December was a month in which we brought "joy to the world" right here in our own area. We started with a trip to the Geraldine Thompson Nursing Home. Accompanied by some members of the Bell Choir, the choral choir, and youth groups, we shared a presentation of Christmas songs with the residents. Santa Claus came to town laden with gifts of hand cream and lap robes for each of the residents. We extend a very special thank you to all who contributed their time, talent and money to provide us with the resources for a high spirited time of music and fellowship.

Thanks to the generous donations of groceries and money, the Deacons were able to assemble and distribute food baskets just in time for the Christmas holiday to many families who are struggling to make ends meet. Again, thank you for the donations of groceries and money used to make this outreach to our community possible.

As we enter the New Year, we remind you that our food pantry is available to meet emergency food needs year round. We welcome your donations and kindly ask that you provide only items that are unopened, completely intact, and within any date codes that may be specified on the label or container.

May 2012 bring us continued opportunities and resources to share our Lord's gracious love and blessings.

What's Happening at Tent City?

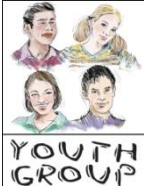


As the cold weather has begun its grip on Ocean County, we still have many brothers and sisters living in Tent City in Lakewood and other outdoor areas throughout the county. We have been faithful in our commitment to provide a steady supply of eggs and water to Tent City. Further, your donations of warm clothing, blankets, and footwear have been delivered regularly to Tent City. They are deeply appreciated. Any items that are not used by residents of Tent City are being shared with other homeless individuals in our area.

Please continue to hold these people in your prayers. A hearing on the Township of Lakewood's legal motion to shut down Tent City is currently scheduled for Friday, January 6th at 9 a.m. at the Ocean County Justice Complex, 100 Hooper Avenue, Toms River in Courtroom 3. Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing. To learn more about the individual stories of some of Tent City's dwellers and the court case, you may go to http://www.njcoalitionhomeless.org/Court_Filings.html.

As opportunities for assistance continue, we will keep you abreast. In the meantime, we have been advised that deliveries of seasoned wood to Tent City would be most welcome. If you are able to specifically respond to this request, please contact Jean Reilly through the church office.

Youth Group



The Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for making holiday shopping for the needy children such a big success. We were able to provide 16 children with the most wonderful Christmas, when they thought there would be none. The families were very grateful to the Brick Presbyterian Church for their generosity and compassion.

The Junior High will be meeting on January 8th at 6:00pm in the Family Life Center; this is the first meeting of the new year.

Other important dates to remember are:

January 8th, 6:00pm - Meeting

January 29th, 6:00pm - Meeting (Souper Bowl Banners) Jr & Sr. High

February 5th, in between services and after 2nd service - Souper Bowl of Caring, Jr & Sr. High

February 19th, 6:00pm - Meeting

We pray that you and your families have a very blessed New Year!

DID YOU KNOW???



...that one of the ministries that we Brick Presbyterians support is Christian Unity? During the early 1900s Christians realized that Christ's Church was divided, compromising the gospel of Jesus Christ; thus Christian Unity was born.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, comes from Paul's first letter to the church of Corinth. "We shall be changed by the victory of our Lord, Jesus Christ." "What a fascinating theme for a focus on Christian unity. So much of the ecumenical work of the church is healing divisions born out of past struggles, differences between Christians, differences that resulted in labeling who's right and who's wrong, who will win and who will lose."

We must remember that when all the denominations gather for the week of prayer, they are all united by the Spirit, but each one brings different gifts; gifts that come from particular experiences and realities. Through God's Spirit, different people are united, different traditions are valued; walls are torn down, and people, churches and races are reconciled. These are not easy tasks, but the church has always encouraged us to overcome prejudices and divisions by extending our hand to our neighbor. Just when we least expect it, God has a way of reminding us that Christian unity is not just a concept but concrete and tangible.

*Excerpted from Presbyterian Mission Year Book for Prayer and Study
By your Mission Committee*

Fight Off a Cold or Flu with These Foods



Cold and flu season is here, but that doesn't mean you have to stock up on tissues and wait for symptoms to make you miserable. To keep fever, sneezing, runny nose, and other gnarly symptoms at bay, just do your daily 30-minute walk and chow down on these five foods to give your immune system a hefty boost.

- 1. Use the power of healthful protein.** One of protein's many jobs is pumping up your ability to make disease-busting antibodies. Just steer clear of fatty red meats and full-fat dairy foods (they promote heart-hazardous inflammation). Pick up healthy-fat, high-protein foods, such as nonfat dairy, skinless white-meat chicken, **ground turkey breast, tofu, fish, nuts, and beans.**
- 2. Load up on colorful eats.** Oranges, strawberries, bell peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, kiwifruit . . . all are loaded with vitamin C and flavonoids, which help your body churn out protective immune cells.
- 3. Sip hot tea.** People who drink 5 cups (about 3 mugs) of black tea daily produce 10 times more virus-fighting interferon than coffee drinkers.
- 4. Eat 100% whole-grain cereals.** Oatmeal, shredded wheat, and other whole-grain cereals deliver three nutrients proved to enhance immunity: selenium, zinc, and beta glucan.
- 5. Spice up your chicken soup.** If you catch something anyway, chicken soup shortens its duration by 50%. One theory about why (there are many): Cooked chicken releases cysteine, an amino acid that's chemically similar to acetylcysteine, a bronchitis drug. Up the soup's knockout punch to cold and flu bugs by tossing in infection-fighting garlic and hot red pepper, which contains capsaicin, a powerful decongestant. (article by Mehmet C. Oz, MD)

Fundraising News



A big thank you to all of you who came out and supported our Brickhouse Restaurant fundraiser!

Our next event will be held at the **Pilot House Restaurant** on Wednesday January 25th and Thursday January 26th. The **Pilot House will donate 20%** of your check toward our Building Expansion Fund. Just pick up a flyer in the Narthex or print one off the church website and give it to your server at the Pilot House. Have a great dinner and thanks again for all your support.

Memorial Bricks

We are once again selling Bricks for the Memorial Garden pathway. The order forms are in the Narthex and on the website, just fill one out and return it to the church office with a check and we will add it to our pathway. 4x8 bricks are \$75.00 and 8x8 bricks are \$150.00. The walkway is underway and will be completed as soon as all the materials arrive and the weather allows. We thank those who have already purchased bricks for their patience.



Thank You!



“Thank You” are two words that are inadequate in describing the overwhelming support from you, the members and friends of Brick Presbyterian Church, toward the Faithful Remnants Quilt Sale. Over \$400 was received and has been deposited into the church’s general account.

Again, thank you for your support!

The Faithful Remnants