

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

January 2011



“Prisoner of the Past or Free for the Future?” Pastor Doug’s New Year’s Reflection

How often people looking at something in their lives – some project undertaken – some opportunity, either ignored or passed over may say: “I wished I had done...”

Sometimes we may find ourselves thinking to ourselves: “Had I know this was how things were going to turn out, I would have done things differently.”

Then there are those among us who may look at things in our past, feeling resentment and anger at some perceived wrong or injustice we felt we received. There may be those we know who seem bitter and negative in the present moment over things that happened to them in the past. Or, maybe it wasn’t over what happened but what didn’t happen, if that person didn’t receive some promotion or recognition one felt was due him or her.

Sometimes when someone has not fulfilled our expectations in the past, we choose to withdraw ourselves from him or her, or the group he or she may be a part. At times our fixation on something that occurred in our lives can be like a chronic sore that just won’t heal. Lingering anger and hurt seem to mark a person’s attitude about unrelated things in the present. Indeed, when this happens to any of us we may not realize how negative about life we may have become.

I learned a long time ago that if we hold something like an uncooked egg in our hand too tightly, it will break and make a mess. If I hold an uncooked egg gently, I can appreciate the egg for what it is without having the mess. As with eggs, so it seems in life. If we hold on to our past hurts, disappointments, mistakes, and regrets we may miss the joy of the new thing God desires for us in the present.

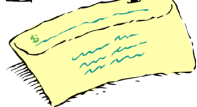
When fleeing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his wife were told not to look back, lest they become pillars of salt. But as the story goes in Genesis, Lot’s wife chose to look back and became a pillar of salt. In so many ways if we get fixated on yesterdays pain we can’t receive today’s joys. Our hearts and minds become hardened to use a biblical term. If we can’t forgive and let go of the past forgiving ourselves or those who let us down, in many ways we unknowingly hurt ourselves spiritually and relationally with others.

Entering the New Year, let us not worship the past, but be freed by God’s forgiveness and our forgiving of ourselves and others so God can use us to build a new future. Let’s marvel at what the Lord is doing in our midst – in our ministry – with the unveiling of a new building. And in our personal lives, let us look forward with St Paul who declared: “...*the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God’s call through Christ Jesus to the life above.*” Phil 3:13-14.

May the Lord’s blessing be upon you and yours in this New Year and upon Brick Presbyterian Church as it seeks to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and God’s people. Happy New Year to all!

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes



The 2011 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 financial secretary@brickpresby.com.

Please be sure to submit all your 2010 donations by 1/1/11. I will be printing the statements after that date. I will not be able to print statements after that date. If you donate in 2010 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 2010. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me!

“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 AM



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

Attention Parents and Confirmation Class Students

Confirmation Class



Attention parents and students for this year's 2011 Confirmation Class. There will be an organization meeting on **Sunday January 9th in the Quilter's Room behind the Sunday School Office at 10:15 between services**. At that time we will hand out class schedule and complete class registration information. Expectations of the class will be presented and other information shared.

At this time it appears that the classes will be held on Wednesday nights in Mid January running from 7 to 8 p.m.

For more information or to share questions and or concerns please contact Pastor Chase at 732-477-0676 or via e-mail at pastor@brickpresby.com.

Do you, a close friend, co-worker or loved one suffer from Depression?



On January 11, 2011 @ 7p.m. the Health Ministry will have a presentation on Depression. It will be held here at our church. Our presenter will be Lynn Leonard MA, NCC, NCSC, LPC, a licensed clinician in private practice and member of our church.

Everyone feels depressed. Yet the sadness and other symptoms of depression that are intense and last for long periods of time can signal clinical depression or major depression, a serious medical illness that needs professional care.

Feeling down from time to time is a normal part of life. But when emptiness and despair take hold and won't go away, it may be depression. More than just the "blues", the lows of depression make it tough to function and enjoy life as before. Depression looks different in men and women, in young people and older adults. An awareness of these different differences helps ensure that the problem is recognized and treated. Depression comes in many shapes and forms. The different types of depression have unique symptoms, causes, and effects. Knowing the type of depression can help to manage symptoms and get the most effective treatment.

This informal presentation will help to define for you depression in its many forms and degrees. Come and learn the difference between short-term, situational or major depression. Learn the various forms of depression. Treatment options and possible forms of prevention will be discussed as well as, most importantly, when to contact a doctor.

Please join us on January 11th for this informative presentation!

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 30, 2011 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.

DEACONS

Thank you again to everyone who made our food distribution a huge success this holiday season. Your donations made it possible to help so many families in need, and your continued support is an overwhelming joy!

We ask that you continue to remember us throughout the year and remember that your donations to our food pantry continue to feed those less fortunate in our area. Thank you again for your generosity.

DID YOU KNOW???

...that the theme for the 2011 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study is “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide”? Throughout the world, missionaries continue to do God’s work. You can share in Christ’s mission by praying for their effective witness of God’s love, the positive difference they can make in people’s lives, and for their safety. During the year, Minute for Missions such as Souper Bowl of Caring, One Great Hour of Sharing, Tools and Blankets, Peacemaking, Christmas Joy, and occasional Emergency Concerns are presented for your awareness and support of specific causes. The Mission Committee thanks you for all your prayers and support throughout the year.

Christ calls us to “...*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit...*” Matthew 28:19

The Mission Committee wishes you a Blessed New Year!

*Excerpted from The 2011 Mission Yearbook
By Your Mission Committee*

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Many of us here at BPC have been meeting to discuss new ways to raise funds to help out with the building expenses and have some fun as well. We are meeting regularly to discuss ideas and would like to invite anyone interested to please join us. Our next meeting will be in early January. Please watch the church bulletin and the website for the date and time.

For now, we would like you to be aware of a couple of exciting upcoming fundraising opportunities. First, over the next couple of months we will be having fundraisers at local restaurants, Simko’s, Friendly’s, Fridays, to name a few. You simply show up on an agreed-upon date, and our church will receive a percentage of the pre-tax check, typically 10 to 20%. Keep an eye out for dates and times and forms needed to show our church affiliation to the restaurant.

Also, we will be offering a Memorial Brick sale for our Memorial Garden. Our bricks will be engraved and used to line the walkway leading to the new fellowship hall. You can have the bricks engraved with your name(s) or the name of a loved one you would like to be part of our Memorial. The bricks, which will become a permanent part of our Memorial Garden, will be offered in 2 sizes: 4”x8” for \$75.00 and 8”x8” for \$150.00. We will start taking orders in January, so please look for the order form then. If you would like more information, you can e-mail fundraising@brickpresby.com.

YOU ASKED – HERE’S OUR ANSWER!

We were asked if any of our Mission Money is used to provide service in Ocean County.



This is a question that has been asked of the Mission Committee. We will try to provide an answer to this question by sharing information about three volunteer programs within Ocean and Monmouth Counties that we Brick Presbyterians support with our Mission money.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Ocean County, Inc. IHNOC is a non-profit interfaith ministry committed to providing shelter, meals and assistance to homeless families. During 2009, IHNOC provided 3,613 overnight accommodations and 10,839 meals to 52 people (21 adults and 31 children).

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey. It is an interfaith agency whose mission is to provide supportive home care services to the frail, elderly and the homebound, enabling them to live independently in their homes and to recruit and train volunteers. During 2010, 1,342 frail and elderly have been served on a monthly basis. Volunteers have given 16,242 service hours of care. The 1,175 Caregiver Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, telephone calls, pet therapy and respite care. Currently, Brick Presbyterian Church has 11 volunteers who have provided 263 hours of service. Thank you volunteers!

Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to work, “in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God’s love and can live and grow into all that God intends.”

This is all made possible through the family selection process. This process, along with the Family Selection Committee, is considered to be the most important aspect of habitat for Humanity. Habitat services 20 communities in Ocean and Monmouth counties.

The newest Habitat Program is a “Brush with Kindness”. This program provides exterior repair to houses that need a minor face lift. The Brush with Kindness has been felt by a member of our congregation when her home was given a face lift.

Brick Memorial High School has become a part of Habitat by forming a chapter. The Youth of the chapter volunteer many hours to all the Habitat projects.

The Mission Committee extends its sincere thanks for your generous monetary support and for your many useful household items donated to the Resale Store.

Through your generosity many lives have been touched.

The Mission Committee

A BIG THANK YOU



We would like to thank all of you who bought either a quilt or one of the tote bags with the crayons to benefit Presbyterian Women’s Mission Ministries. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Thanks from the Faithful Remnants (Quilters)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The Youth Group had their last bake sale on Dec. 5th and give a big thanks to the congregation as they were able to raise over \$900.00 for the Children in Need Christmas Gifts.

The Senior and Junior Highs went out to Target to shop then returned back to the Church for their Lock-In where they wrapped presents had an ice cream party, watched a movie and slept in the classrooms.

After a busy night they managed to pick themselves up and join the Deacons in the Christmas Caroling at the Geraldine Thompson Home the next day. Way to go Youth Group!

We are looking forward to the New Year with lots of events to plan such as the Souper Bowl, Youth Rally, Retreat, Bowling, Roller Skating and of course Meetings. Please look at your emails for upcoming outings and meetings.

The leaders are working on the 2nd half of the year schedule and will have it out shortly.

We would like to wish everyone a very safe and healthy New Year.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Psalm 96:2