

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

October 2011

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## A Pastor and Former Chaplain Remembers a General's Insight

I have long held the late General Omar Bradley in high esteem as one of our nation's finest military leaders – not simply for his outstanding leadership during World War II, but also for his great intellect and insightful moral wisdom. As I listen to and observe what people are saying privately on Main Street and what the media has been reporting over the past year, many of us may wonder, “how is it that we have gotten to where we are in this great land?”

This is a worthwhile question to ask. News reports about people in positions of respect, public trust and power have brought shame upon themselves and their constituents because of inappropriate behavior, as in a texting scandal that forced a congressman from his legislative seat.

In recent years political scandals, arrests and convictions of public officials on various charges of corruption have hurt not just those who were convicted, but caused many in the public to become mistrustful of those in elected or appointed positions of public trust.

Reports concerning a hotel maid's allegations of rape by a former head of the International Monetary Fund are also disturbing to many. There are numerous elements of that story which were disturbing. Among the troubling elements of that story were revelations the accused may have violated the sanctity of his marriage on other occasions and now faces allegations of sexual misconduct back in France. But, also troubling were reports that the maid's own credibility was drawn into question as investigators learned about what she had said and done.

We see how partisan politics has kept our nations from resolving important issues as those from many different places on the political horizon appear to be more concerned about promoting their particular ideologies and hold on power, than working with those with whom they differ for a greater good.

Today many of us are concerned about the destructive impact that bullying, cyber-bullying, sexting and substance abuse can have on our children and grandchildren. Stories of children and teens whose lives ended tragically break the hearts of all of us.

Now back to General Omar Bradley. He observed and said of our world: “we have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.” He also said: “The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.” Years since he made those statements, there seems to be a ring of truth in his words. Recent studies reveal that Americans including those professing faith seem to know and understand little about what the Bible actually says. In many places attending worship and church school has become replaced with other more entertaining pursuits. Many people know more about baseball, soccer and football stats, than Biblical stories and their timeless lessons.

The motto of the U.S. Army Chaplains Corp is Proverbs 9:10; “The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.” Perhaps our nation and we in it need to reclaim our moral and spiritual compass? Perhaps it is time to affirm our need for a Wisdom that is greater than our own – a Love that cares enough to expect more and better of us all? Maybe this is a good time for all of us to return to church and church school, that together we may put first things first once again.

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank the congregation for the support we received over the past year. The congregation's support of our 5 restaurant fundraisers (\$2348.27), memorial brick sales (\$10,200.00), and Blue Claws fundraisers (\$1300.00 estimated) have contributed \$13,848.00 toward our new Fellowship Hall. We were truly blessed to have this much support. We will continue to run fundraisers and hope we can count on your continued support. Please look for our October fundraisers in the Narthex, on the Website, and here in the Newsletter.



For the month of October please look for the following fundraisers:

1. **Party Fair** on Brick Blvd will donate \$1 to our church if you spend a minimum of \$5 during the month of October. You will need a flyer to hand in at the register when checking out for us to get the donation. The flyers will be on the table in the Narthex and on the church website. You cannot hand them out at Party Fair but you can give them to all your friends and ask them to help us out. This is great timing with the Halloween season upon us so please go to Party Fair for all your costumes and decorations.
2. **Pizza Hut.** We will be running a fundraiser at **Pizza Hut in Brick**, this **includes dine-in, carryout or delivery**. We will get 20% of your check, just bring the flyer when you order. Check the website or the Narthex for flyers, info and dates.
3. **Memorial Bricks** Keep an eye on the website and the Narthex for our next sale.

## FROM THE DEACONS BENCH



As we drift into the fall season, we know that the time of harvest is not far off. Many seeds have been sown in ministries that the Deacons are carrying out on behalf of our congregation. Your contributions of groceries, lap robes, cooked meals, various items donated to our military collection, and money are just some of the gifts that have allowed us to share God's love in a demonstrative and ongoing way with families struggling to put food on the table, the sick, the homeless in our immediate area, and our men and women in the Armed Forces.

We are beginning to gear up for the holidays and welcome your continued donations and gifts. Please feel free to check the Deacons' bulletin board in the narthex or [http://www.brickpresby.com/pages/Food\\_Pantry](http://www.brickpresby.com/pages/Food_Pantry) for a list of suggested grocery items that will be used in assembling our holiday food baskets.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The Junior and Senior High together kicked off the new season with a dinner, getting to know you games and a volley ball game that had everybody having a great time. We have a full calendar of events planned for the year and would like to invite everyone out between the grades of 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> for junior high and 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> for senior high. If your schedule does not permit you to attend all the meetings feel free to join us whenever you are available.

### **The Junior High schedule for October is as follows:**

October 9<sup>th</sup> – Bake Sale after both services, please bring in a baked item to sell  
October 16<sup>th</sup> – Crop Walk – meet in church parking lot at 1:00pm or Toms River Presbyterian church parking lot at 1:15 (don't forget your pledges)  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Von Thon's Corn Maze – meet in church parking lot at 12:00pm

Advanced notice for November to mark your calendars is as follows:

November 6<sup>th</sup> – Bake Sale after both services, please bring in a baked item to sell  
November 12<sup>th</sup> – Set up and cook for Harvest Dinner  
November 13<sup>th</sup> – Serve food at the Harvest Dinner  
November 20<sup>th</sup> – Fall Cleanup – meet in church parking lot at 12:00

### **The Senior High schedule for October is:**

October 9<sup>th</sup> - Bake Sale with Junior High  
Regular meeting at 6 pm  
  
October 16<sup>th</sup> - Crop Walk with Jr. High 1:00 pm

We look forward to a great year and consider ourselves truly blessed to be able to spend time with all of you.

## **Bible Presentation**

This year's third graders will receive their Bibles on Family Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.



## DID YOU KNOW???



...that one of the ministries that we Brick Presbyterians support is the “Peacemaking Offering”?

This offering was organized following the adoption by the 192<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of Peacemaking: The Believers Calling, which called for an emphasis on peacemaking across the Presbyterian church (USA). Make this year a time to renew your commitment to peacemaking as part of your calling as a follower of Christ, who not only taught us the ways of peace, but who is our peace. The offering helps the GA support the people around the world who are suffering from violence, war, hunger and oppression. Funds received are divided three ways: 25% to congregations, 25% to the Presbytery and Synod, and 50% to the GA. Your Mission Committee has voted that our 25% will support our Missionary Mark Hare in Haiti.

The impact of the Peacemaking Offering was felt by the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr, PA when a faith-based movement to prevent gun violence was formed. The members of the Littlefield Presbyterian Church in Dearborn, MI, after hearing the words: “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”, created a culture of peace in their community. On Sunday, October 2, we are mindful of our unity with Christians everywhere. When you donate to the Peacemaking Offering on that date, you help support Presbyterians who are finding ways to work with others for peace in this country and around the world.

During 2010, you, the members and friends of this church, gave \$622 to this offering. We, the members of the Mission Committee, ask you to pray and be as generous as you can on October 2. It’s remarkable what your gift will provide, always remembering the words from “James”:  
“The harvest of justice is sown in peace”

## A LIFE WORTH SAVING CROP HUNGER WALK 2011

This morning in Manila eight year old Tomas roused himself from his bed of dirty rags and left the safety of his dark alley to face another day of scavenging for food and anything else of value that he could find. He has lived on the streets for almost a year and his life expectancy is measured in months unless he finds sanctuary where he will have safety, good food and education.



There are sanctuaries in third world cities all over the world and they are saving many street children like Tomas, but they are full. CROP Hunger Walkers have supported these sanctuaries and have saved lives and made them healthier and happier.

Again this year Hunger walkers will walk for the hungry and homeless. They will walk to make room for Tomas and all the other street urchins, knowing that each is a life worth saving and helping is worth doing.

Please join us in Toms River on Sunday, October 16, 2011!

## Health Ministry



The following information is from The National Mental Health Institute.

### How is depression diagnosed and treated?

Depression, even the most severe cases, can be effectively treated. Depression is a common but serious illness. Most that experience depression need treatment to get better. The earlier that treatment can begin the more effective it is.

The first step to getting appropriate treatment is to visit a doctor or mental health specialist. Certain medications, and some medical conditions such as viruses or a thyroid disorder, can cause the same symptoms as depression. A doctor can rule out these possibilities by doing a physical exam, interview, and lab tests. If the doctor can find no medical condition that may be causing the depression, the next step is a psychological evaluation.

The doctor may refer you to a mental health professional, who should discuss with you any family history of depression or other mental disorder, and get a complete history of your symptoms. You should discuss when your symptoms started, how long they have lasted, how severe they are, and whether they have occurred before and if so, how they were treated. The mental health professional may also ask if you are using alcohol or drugs, and if you are thinking about death or suicide.

Once diagnosed, a person with depression can be treated in several ways. The most common treatments are medication and psychotherapy.

## Depression Seminar

On Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm we will be having our second seminar in the series on Depression. Our guest speaker is Lynn Leonard MA, NCC, NCSC, LPC, a licensed clinician in private practice in Brick. This lecture will focus on identifying symptoms in oneself, family or friend & also to answer the question "*Is Depression Contagious?*"

## Flu Clinic

The Health Ministry team is coordinating a Flu Clinic at our church with the Ocean County Health Department. It will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2011 in the Church Family Life Center from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. We would like you to invite your friends & neighbors to come to this event to be prepared for the upcoming flu season. Questions can be directed to the team through the church office. We hope to see you on November 6<sup>th</sup> to prepare you & your family for the upcoming flu season!



## HARVEST DINNER



Sunday, November 13, 2011  
Following second service  
Hope to see you there!



### Giving Cards To Be Dedicated in November



On November 13, the Giving Cards will be dedicated at both services. Letters and cards will be mailed toward the end of October. Please bring your completed card, or an extra card will be available in the pew on that day.

Thank you,  
Your Stewardship Committee