

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

February 2011

Pastor Doug Reflects on “Unsung Heroes making a Difference Every Day”

I love reading stories about heroes. Don't you? Such stories inspire the soul, encourage us, and give us a glimmer of hope. When we look at the Bible we may think of heroes being people like:

- A shepherd boy named David, whose faith and confidence in the Lord enabled him to face and bring down a giant Philistine warrior named Goliath;
- An adopted child, Moses, who as an adult left the security of his home to challenge the abusive authority of Pharaoh, leading an oppressed people to freedom and a place of promise; or
- A man of great strength like Samson, whose faith in the Lord gave him strength to overcome his enemies;
- A prophet like Nathan who challenged King David's spiritual hypocrisy, or an Amos who called the rich and powerful to be accountable to the poor; and
- We may think of Lydia, a woman, who became a Christian and appears to help finance Paul's ministry.

God presents us with heroes of many different sorts. Some get a lot of attention, others are lesser known. But regardless of the amount of public attention they get, their importance remains high.

Recently there was talk of the heroic acts of ordinary people in Tucson: the staffer whose quick response saved the life of Rep. Gifford; the retired army officer and another person who tackled the shooter at risk to their own lives; the husband who sacrificed his life to save his wife's life. These are dramatic examples of heroes that God raises up in times of crisis, even as we think of the responders to 911.

But, heroes are sometime the people who are present in our midst quietly doing things that don't make the papers. The mother who goes without new cloths so her children can have new sneakers for school is often the unsung hero. The dad who works two jobs and still finds time to help the kids with their school work and listen to them is a hero. The parent, like the mother of basketball great Isaiah Thomas, who stands up to the influence of gangs that are trying to draw a son into a bad crowd is a hero. The person who in Christian love sits with a friend at the bedside of a dying spouse shows heroism. So too, does the teacher who doesn't give up on a student, whose family doesn't care whether he or she does well in school. A hero may be the person who won't let a friend drive home drunk. Or a hero may be one who believes in supporting those who are in places like Haiti, and decides to give up a magazine subscription and other personal expenses and use the money to support that ministry to better the life of another.

One thing I have noticed in life is this, not all heroes make the headlines. Heroes often don't see themselves as heroes, but simply folk doing what the Lord would have done. Heroes are those who because of their faith, courage, determination, self-sacrifice, and concern for others step-up to the plate, forgetting one's self to help another, and do what's right. Jesus once said: **“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another.”** (John 15:13).

MEMORIAL BRICK SALE



The Fundraising Committee has begun taking orders for our Memorial Brick Sale. We are offering 2 sizes of bricks: 4x8" and 8x8". The bricks will be engraved and used to line the edge of the walkway through the Memorial Garden. Order forms are available on the church website and in the Narthex. Please fill out an order form and return it to the Church in an envelope saying "Memorial Brick Fundraiser" with a check made out to Brick Presbyterian Church. Bricks sized at 4 x 8" are \$75.00, and 8 x 8" bricks are \$150.00. Any questions may be directed through the Church website's fundraising link, or at Church. Look for our table with sample bricks in the Narthex. We would like to get as many orders as we can now to have the bricks ready for placement this spring.

SIMKO'S FUNDRAISER

The Fundraising Committee would like to remind the congregation that our first fundraising event is at Simko's Restaurant on Weds. February 2nd and Thurs. February 3rd. Spend a great night out at Simko's and we will receive 20% of your check towards our Church's Building Campaign. All that's required is that you show up on Wednesday, February 2nd or Thursday, February 3rd and give the Simko's flyer to your server. **The flyer must be present for us to get the donation.** The flyer will be available on the church website and in the Narthex at the church. Please give the flyer to everyone who you think would like to support our Church. Only one flyer is needed per table, and we cannot give them out at the restaurant. Gift cards are welcome but please **no coupons**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to help our Church and spend fun a night out. See you at Simko's!



"COME MEET YOUR SHEPHERD" COFFEE HOUR



The annual coffee hour event will kick off at 10:15 AM on Sunday, February 27th in Fellowship Hall. Hopefully, you and your shepherd have been in contact during the previous year, but whether you have or not, this is an opportunity to come face to face with those who attempt to keep our family of faith connected through phone calls, cards, and notes. Over coffee, tea, or juice with plenty of pastries, breads, bagels and home-made baked goods, we all have a chance to meet others of our church "areas" who may have been relocated during the year as well as new members. For those attending the 9 AM worship, please stay around; for the 11 o'clockers, come early to enjoy the warm friendship of our fellow congregants on a cold (hopefully not "snowy") morning. If you don't know who your shepherd is, or even if you don't have one, we will be ready to point you in the right direction. This is always a well-attended fun event, so COME ON OUT!!



Coffee Hour

DID YOU KNOW???



...that one of the ministries that we Brick Presbyterians support is Camp and Conference Ministries?

On a cold, snowy day, it is hard to imagine the impending change of seasons. As the starkness of winter turns to the green of spring, the beauty of God's creation blossoms at the 140 Presbyterian camp and conference centers across the United States. Stony Point Conference Center and Camp Johnsonburg are the two centers that are most familiar to us.

For over 100 years, guests from across the vast landscape of America have joined together in conference rooms, in auditoriums, and around campfires to seek private space under the stars. Voices are lifted in praise to God for the beauty of creation, for the care of human life and for the joy of being alive. They come together, at all ages and from all different cultures, to explore the Good News with the hope of finding old and new friends.

Statistics show that Presbyterians, like all Christians, find peace and joy, as well as strengthen faith and spirit of love at camp and conference experiences. When these participants remove themselves from the world they can see more clearly the way God is working in their lives and in the midst of their communities. They return to the world with a renewed heart for ministry and a deeper understanding of themselves. Camp and conference ministry touches the lives of all ages and is an incredible example of what we can do to grow Christ's church through evangelism and discipleship.

As February comes to a close, it is a good time for us to pray for the important ministry that takes place in these centers each year. As in Matthew 28:19: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

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

"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

DEACONS

You are invited to check out our Deacons' bulletin board in the parlor. The busy Deacons serve in various ways to meet the needs of our church and community, and we can't do what we do without the congregation's help! We will be using this bulletin board to give you up to date information on various activities that we are involved in (such as the recent holiday food donations. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed both food and money to this effort) and upcoming events (like our blood drive, taking place in March! Remember how successful last year's blood drive was? You'll want to be a part of it this year!) As well as donations and contributions that we are seeking (consider donating to our soldiers from the list of much needed items as we begin to put together care packages. We can't wait to get involved in this activity!) This beautiful bulletin board will provide you with so much information and give you great ideas about how you can be involved in helping us assist people in need.



2011 ENVELOPES

Due to printer's error, please make sure all of your envelopes are the same number. Please check that all numbers in the box match the label on top of the box. It is helpful if you put your name and amount on the envelope as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at financialsecretary@brickpresby.com.



Confirmation Class



CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class will now be meeting on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 PM – 3:00PM.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AWARDS

Application letters for Brick Presbyterian Church's Continuing Education Awards will be available for pick up in both the main office and the Sunday School office as of February 1, 2011. All details and criteria are explained in the application letter. If you would like the application mailed to you or if you have any questions, please contact christianeducation@brickpresby.com.



JR HI YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Youth Group is a place where young people can come together where they are accepted and loved without ridicule, bullying or disrespect for each other or the leaders. Our goal is to provide a supportive Christ-centered environment where youths may develop, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and socially, so that they may know Christ as their Lord and Saviour. It is our desire to see them become true disciples of Christ (Matt 28:19,20), so that they may serve and love God wholeheartedly (Luke 10:27). All youth programs and activities are designed with this goal in mind.

All youth leaders strive to gain the trust and respect of the youths as a foundation for personal friendship and mentoring.

This youth ministry takes a team approach, and values the active support and involvement of parents to share with the youth the mission and goals of Youth Group.

February 6th - Souper Bowl Sunday

February 20th – Meeting at 6:00PM

Attention Parents of 4th and 5th Graders

Mark your calendars and save the date for the 4th and 5th grade retreat at Camp Johnsonburg. It will be held Friday, June 3 - Saturday, June 4, 2011. We are really excited about this and we hope the children will be as well. More information to follow, but if you have any questions please contact christianeducation@brickpresby.com.



Attention High School Students



We are on a mission to re-structure, re-define, and re-invent what was formerly known as the Senior High Youth Group. We know you guys are busy with school, work, sports, jobs and lots of other stuff, but we want to spend some time with you as well! Please join us for our next meeting which will be on February 13th at 6:00 pm. If you can't make that one, then join us on February 27th at 6:00 pm. No pressure, just time spent in Christian Fellowship with your peers figuring out what direction this group would like to go. Looking forward to seeing you.....

February is American Heart Month



Heart Disease is the number one cause of death in the United States. About every 25 seconds, an American will have a coronary event. The chance of developing coronary heart disease can be reduced by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk. Additionally, knowing the signs and symptoms of heart attack are crucial to the most positive outcomes after having a heart attack. People who have survived a heart attack can also work to reduce their risk of another heart attack or a stroke in the future.

Know your Signs and Symptoms

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense; however, most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** May occur with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other Signs.** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

It is important to call 911 immediately at the onset of heart attack symptoms!

A healthy diet and life style are the best weapons you have to fight heart disease. Many people make it harder than it is. It is important to remember that it is the overall pattern of the choices you make that counts. As you make daily food choices, base your eating pattern on these recommendations: choose lean meats & poultry without skin and prepare them without added saturated and trans fat; Select fat-free, 1% fat, and low- fat dairy products; Cut back on foods high in dietary cholesterol; Choose and prepare with little or no salt; If you drink alcohol, drink in moderation (that means no more than one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men); Keep an eye on your portion sizes.

This information was obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention web site.

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AT BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For everyone's safety, please observe the new traffic patterns at the church.

Enter the church parking lot(s) and driveway from the East side of the church property (the Manse side).

Exit on the West side of the church property (the side closest to Paris Ave.) on to Drum Point Road. The Exit from the church property is one way with a lane for those making right hand turns on to Drum Point Road and a left hand turn lane for those going west on Drum Point Road

Please do not park near the construction site office trailer. This area is still a designated construction zone and restricted to construction related work.