

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

February 2018

Pastoral Reflections on a Month Full of Holidays



February marks a lot of dates on the calendar for many people. February first marks National Freedom Day followed by Ground Hog Day. There is Lincoln's birthday on the 12th, Mardi Gras on the 13th, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday both on the 14th. Let's not forget Chinese New Year on the 16th, President's Day on the 19th followed by Washington's birthday on the 22nd and WWII veterans will note the 23rd as the day a flag was raised on Iwo Jima in 1945 and another generation of vets will recall the 24th as the launch of Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

This month offers many things to remember or to celebrate from the celebration of U.S. history and presidents – pondering how much longer winter will persist as determined by a ground hog in PA, or the partying of Mardi Gras or Chinese New Year.

But what struck me is this year **Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day.** Valentine's Day brings to mind Cupid's arrows of love and romance; while Ash Wednesday brings to mind sack cloth, ashes and repentance. But I would like to suggest that for people of faith we have an opportunity to see these two holidays as a time of celebrating our love not just for that special someone in our lives, but for the Lord Jesus Christ. As **Jesus is God's Valentine's gift** of divine love, forgiveness, and mercy to us – so too, we can think of Ash Wednesday (*and the season of Lent*) as our opportunity to renew our love and strengthen our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Church.

Our Valentine gift to the Lord could well be our reaffirming not just our commitment to that special person in your life or to your family, but to the family of faith here at Brick Presbyterian Church – an opportunity to re-engage with God through the community of faith. It's been said absence makes the heart grow fonder. *That's not true is it?* When someone quietly removes themselves from us for an extended time, we begin to think the other doesn't care. Perhaps each is hoping the other will say or do something. But, too often each assumes the other doesn't care. Each moves on with their life without the other, and both are diminished.

This **Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday** and the start of the **Lenten season**, is perfect time for us to show the Lord, and the Lord's Church, *we really do care.* It's a perfect time to say both to the Lord and to one another in the household of faith that we care about and love one another because the Lord Jesus Christ first loved us. It's also a great time to tell the world that you love Brick Presbyterian Church and the God it stands for and the people who have chosen to be a part of this body of faith. And, it's a perfect time to invite others to come and know God's love here. *God loves you in Jesus Christ, and so do I.*

Your partner in Christ's service,
Pastor 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 (*wobm.com*)
The Hawk, 105.7 FM (*1057TheHawk.com*)
The Point, 94.3 AM (*943ThePoint.com*)
Beach Radio WOBM 1160 & 1310 AM (*mybeachradio.com*)
New Jersey 101.5 (*NJ1015.com*)



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

Per Capita 2018

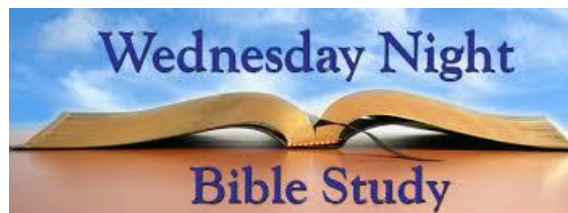
Per capita
is part of
the glue
that holds
Presbyterians
together

Presbyterians have always understood that we are a connectional church, that we have a covenantal relationship with each other and with God. In order for our relationships to deepen and our partnership to flourish, we need to support each other. One way the Church has done this is through Per Capita gifts from local churches. These funds are vital to the Church as a whole and they pay for the core functions of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

Historically, Presbyterians have always understood that our work and witness for the gospel is more effective when we do it together, rather than separately. Together, we have access to a greater abundance of resources for doing mission, including time, money and talents. Together, we also share the expenses of being organized for mission, thus providing for the infrastructure that supports our mission work.

Per Capita for 2018 is \$37.00 per member. You may make your Per Capita payment in a single payment or you may choose to pay it in smaller installments throughout the year. If you choose to submit your per capita in installment payments, please clearly note on the envelope that your payment is for per capita.

- Adapted from www.baltimorepresbytery.org/percapita



Join us every Wednesday in the Parlor at 7:30pm.
If you have any questions, contact Judy Gavan or Ed Carlson.

Happy Valentine's Day!

The Evangelism Committee invites you to join us on the 1st Tuesday of every month (September through June) at 7p.m. in classroom 1.

Your idea's, thoughts, and participation would be very much welcomed and appreciated as we look for ways to spread the Word and Love of Christ in the Brick community and beyond.

We thank all who have affixed their static car stickers "I Love My Church - Brick Presbyterian." If you have not received your sticker or need another, let us know.

We look forward to seeing many new faces at Worship services in 2018. Let's start by inviting a friend or neighbor to join us in worship and at our next Coffee Hour on the 3rd Sunday in February (Feb. 18th).

Have a Happy "Chocolate, Flowers, or Heart Day"!

GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS



Thank you to our wonderful congregation for your generous donations to our food pantry during the holiday season. Many families in our local community were able to enjoy delicious, nutritious meals thanks to your generosity. Please continue to send in donations of non-perishable food items as well as small personal toiletry items for the Active Military. Lists of needed items may be found on the Brick Presbyterian Church web site.

Thank you, and God bless you.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

2 Corinthians 8:12

Scholarship Applications

If you are graduating high school in June 2018 with plans to further your education in the fall of 2018, you are encouraged to apply for a Florence M. Mallinson Scholarship. Applications will be available in the Sunday school office, the church office, or by emailing a request to Donnaschlatter@comcast.net.



Security Notice from PB&G When using the facility please ensure that all doors are locked, and all lights are turned off as you leave the church. This will help to keep our utility bills low and ensure that our church is secure.

Youth Group

The Youth Groups will be taking donations for the *Super Bowl of Caring* on **February 4th** in between services, please come over to the Team table you think will win the Super Bowl and make your donation.

The Youth Groups will be going to *Shorrock Gardens* on **February 11th** at 10:30am to deliver carnations and Valentine Day Cards. We will leave right after Church service.

We will also be going bowling on **February 25th**, time to be announced.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants of the Lord!!

We as a congregation say thank you to those Ruling Elders and Deacons who have completed terms of office in faithfully serving our congregation, community, and our Lord.

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation we recognized and honored those completing two three-year terms of service as Ruling Elders on Session as well as those who completed one three-year term of office on the Session. Each of these Ruling Elders has in numerous ways given of themselves to lead this congregation forward in following Jesus Christ.

We also recognized a number of Deacons completing service to our congregation, community and Lord, completing two three-year terms in office as well as those who completed one three-year term in office. Each of these Deacons has given of themselves in sharing God's love and compassion for others on behalf of our congregation and were recognized for their faithfulness at the Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on January 28, 2018.

To all our faithful Ruling Elders and Deacons, we say thank you for all you have done and for all you continue to do as partners in Christ's ministry at Brick Presbyterian Church.



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00pm

Fundraising Committee



The Committee would like to thank the volunteers who gave their time during the busy Christmas season to help us wrap gifts at Boscov's in the Ocean County Mall. It was a lot of fun and a very successful fundraiser.

Save The Date

On Saturday, **March 10, 2018**, The Fundraising Committee, with the help of your Fellowship Committee, will be holding a *St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in the FLC*. The profit from the event will be donated to our Deacons to help with their Easter food basket distribution. Details will be available shortly so mark this date on your calendar and come out to support our Deacons and enjoy a delicious Irish meal.

Please remember our ongoing fundraisers: Stream Energy and AmazonSmile! See one of our Committee Members and sign up now!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The Christian season of Lent, which begins this year on **February 14th**, is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer. But this isn't the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down.

In March, we shall participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability.

“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to **loose the bonds of injustice**,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to **let the oppressed go free**,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not **to share your bread with the hungry**,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called **the repairer of the breach**,
the restorer of streets to live in.”

- Isaiah 58

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

- PCUSA Presbyterian Mission

PLEDGE UPDATE

February is a month in which people often turn their attention to thoughts of love and hearts. However, at Brick Presbyterian Church, we strive to share God's love and carry out the example set before us in the mission of Jesus Christ in every month of the year. Each one of us has something to contribute to the heart of this ministry.

As of December 27, 2017, 102 pledges were received for 2018. If you have not already submitted a pledge, it is not too late to do so. Please feel free to mail in your pledge card or drop it in the offering basket at a church service.

Thank you for your support of God's work through Brick Presbyterian Church!

- *Stewardship and Mission Committee*



Brick Presbyterian Church provides a spiritual home where we have celebrated God's love for decades. Being a part of this congregation, you are participating in a legacy that has supported thousands of participants through the years and served as a beacon of Christ's love and hope to the surrounding community and the world at large.

Have you considered making a planned gift to Brick Presbyterian Church that will evidence your gratitude and serve as a continued blessing for our congregation in the years to come? Bequests to the church and our Endowment Fund have enabled us to make needed additions and improvements to our facilities, offer student scholarships, and maintain many of the ministries and activities at our church during times of budgetary difficulties.

Your will and other estate planning documents provide an ideal opportunity to make a statement of your faith and to give resources that will support the work of Jesus Christ through your church for years to come. A charitable bequest may be written into your will that can be a stated amount, a percentage of your estate or a residual amount after other expenses have been deducted.

For further information about making such a gift, please contact: Rev. Douglas Chase in our church office at 732-477-0676. Rev. Chase will gladly guide you to the right contacts and will respect your privacy. You may also learn more about planned giving by visiting the Presbyterian Foundation's website at - www.liveforwardgiveforward.com.