

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

April 2016

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## Pastor Doug Reflects on the Resurrection – Faith – Hope & Empowerment

When spring comes many of us find ourselves in better spirits. Robins return to our lawns. Flowers bulbs that lay dormant through barren winter months send forth flowers. We awake in the morning to the sweet melodies of song birds. After school our children crowd the playgrounds of local parks, celebrating the joy of blue skies and warm, sunny days.

But as much as we enjoy these things, I need something more to face the hard challenges of daily life. I look at the resurrection of Jesus as something that gives a deeper and more profound hope – as something that can really empower us. Why? Because we can only make ourselves do so much in this life by sheer determination. Yes, we can accomplish many wonderful things on sheer determination. But that alone is not enough, especially in a world where so many people become angry, frustrated, and discouraged. In a world that does not embrace the love and values we find in Christ. Will power and hope based only on mortal strength alone will ultimately tire and weaken, even in the strongest.

I have found in my spiritual journey that I need a vision and an assurance that there is something greater than myself—greater than human will power and positive thinking alone to carry me. I need to know that no matter how discouraging, negative and mean spirited the world and many in it may seem, those things and people do not have the last word. I need to know that the One who raised Christ from the tomb can lift me above the daily grind that seeks to keep me from the faithful life.

A Danish Christian philosopher was once mocked by his friends for his seeking to live a noble and faithful life. His critics lived by the creed, “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you shall die.” They contended that there was nothing beyond this life, so why bother to labor for a better world. The Christian philosopher replied, “You may be right. But if I am right in stating and living as though what we do in this world has eternal consequences, then by grace I gain heaven.”

Many people may say that Christ is Risen, but then do not let that spiritual knowledge grab them as their life’s motivation, hope, and source of strength. When I think of how much the Apostle Paul endured following his conversion and encounter of the Risen Lord, I see a man motivated, shaped, strengthened and given hope by the Resurrection of Christ. How else could he have endured persecution, beatings, jail, and so much more for his faith, had he not been convinced that what he did or didn’t do mattered in this life—had he not been convinced that as he shared in the life and death of Christ, so too by God’s grace he may share in Christ’s resurrection. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:19-20 *“If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we’re a pretty sorry lot. But the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries.”*<sup>1</sup>

Are you letting Christ’s resurrection empower your life? Is it giving you hope in the midst of despair?

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor 15:19-20 (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)

## Fundraising



Please join us at Outback Steakhouse on Hooper Avenue in Brick on Monday and Tuesday, April 18 and 19, for a delicious meal benefiting BPC. On either of these days, from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Outback Steakhouse will donate 15% of your entire check back to us. Gift cards will be available for purchase so if you can't dine at the restaurant on either of these days, pick up a gift card and come back another time. Your gift card purchase will be counted in the fundraiser! Takeout orders are also included in this fundraiser. You will need to present a flyer in order for your check to be included, so please find one on the church website or outside the FLC or see one of our committee members. Whether you have a flyer for 4/18 or 4/19 both are accepted on either day.

## Evangelism and Outreach

*Isaiah 52:7-10 The Message (MSG)*

*7-10 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news, Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Greetings BPC Family. The E and O committee invites you to mark your calendars with the following important dates:



**Sunday, April 17, 2016** – “Catch a friend, bring em in” Sunday.

Invite a friend to Family Worship and fellowship afterwards at our monthly coffee hour.

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**Thursday, May 5, 2016** - National Day of Prayer – join your church family and community members as we learn to Pray in Color. Spend time in prayer and enjoy the fellowship of our church family from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the FLC.

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**Saturday, May 14th** – BPC Annual Blessing of the Pets -10 am in the Memorial Garden. Remember - all dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. If your pet cannot attend the service for any reason, bring a picture with you to hang on our special board designed just for them! Please include your name & address on the back of the picture.



And...even if you don't have your own furry friend to bless, please consider making a contribution to bless the animals at Jersey Shore Animal Shelter. A table in the Family Life center will be set up to receive your gifts. You will find a list there of suggested items. If you have questions contact Paulette Auriemma.

## Youth Group



March was a very active month for the Youth Groups. We spent some fellowship and fun time out bowling, making Palm Crosses, handing out Palm Crosses at the Shorrock Nursing Home and raising funds through a bake sale on Easter Sunday for our "Earn your Wings Project". A big thank you to the congregation for supporting our project.

The Youth Groups will meet on April 3<sup>rd</sup> - the Senior Highs will meet in their room and the Junior Highs will meet in the Family Life Center.

On April 17th the groups will be going over to St. Thomas Church to make the food bags for "Stop Hunger Now". We will meet in our church parking lot at 1:15pm.

We will also be collecting jar of nickels for our "Earn Your Wings Project". There are ready made jars in the narthex that you can pick up or you can collect the nickels in your own jar from home. When the jar is filled please return it to the Christian Education Office.

## Deacons

The Board of Deacons provided over 40 baskets for the Easter holiday to families in need. Thanks so much to our generous congregation for donating so generously to our food bank, without your support the Board would be unable to help.

The Board of Deacons will be hosting a Blood Drive in May and we will let you know as soon as the date is decided. Please come and support the Blood Drive and bring a friend.



## Food for Friends

Food for the soul. Good taste. Big impact. Do you know someone from our church congregation who could use a hot-cooked meal? Perhaps because they just got out of the hospital, underwent surgery, delivered a baby, or are just feeling "under the weather." The Deacons would like to make this service available. If you are aware of a church member who would benefit from this gesture, please contact the church office and ask for Pastor Doug, or you can email Jill Moberg (Jbritton83@hotmail.com) to submit your request. Be sure to leave your contact information.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING!



Thank you for your donations to "One Great Hour of Sharing". A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Thank you for sharing God's love in a heartwarming and life changing way!

### Stream Energy

Winter, spring, summer or fall, Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church. Sign up now and you will not only see a savings yourself but will also be part of the donation made to our Church. **For additional information you can contact Patrice Law @ 732-779-7242 or [patricealaw@gmail.com](mailto:patricealaw@gmail.com).**



### An Update on New Eyes for the Needy

The Stewardship and Mission Committee has been collecting reusable old plastic or metal framed eyeglasses, nonprescription sunglasses, hearing aids, costume jewelry and old watches (even broken!) to help support New Eyes For The Needy, Inc. First organized in 1932, New Eyes for the Needy is a New Jersey based nonprofit volunteer organization that recycles the above items and uses them to provide the gift of sight to the poor all over the United States and throughout the world.

***Thank you for supporting this worthy effort!*** We will continue to collect these items in 2016. Please drop them off in the collection box located in the Narthex. For more information, contact Patrice Law at 732-840-8412 or via e-mail at [patricealaw@gmail.com](mailto:patricealaw@gmail.com).

## **A letter from Missionary Mark Hare**

Dear Friends,

As Jenny noted in her recent letter, we have been going through many changes as a family since we arrived in the United States last June.

One of those changes for me has been how I interpret my work as a mission co-worker to the congregations that we visit. For most of my time as a mission worker, I have been doing mission interpretation by myself. Working as a team with Jenny to put together our story has been an enormous improvement. For example, Jenny has helped me focus on the importance of creating spaces that can provide opportunities for deep conversations and help us develop real relationships with congregations here in the States just as we develop deep relationships with the communities where we serve in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

While Jenny, Keila, Annika and I have developed new and deeper relationships with people here in Amesville, Ohio, where we are living for the year, Jenny and I have continued to be in touch with our respective communities in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Jenny has had numerous phone conversations with friends in Batey 7...is one of the communities of Dominicans descended from Haitians brought to the Dominican Republic to harvest sugar cane. News from Batey 7 has been positive. The Community Health Evangelism Committee of Batey 7 continues to develop its vision of a new community.

Since December 2014 the committee has had as one of its primary goals the improvement of the houses of a number of families in the Batey 7 who simply don't have the resources to repair their homes without assistance. The main focus of the committee has been roofs. In February of 2015 the committee was able to help three families improve their roofs and their goal for 2015 was to help another ten. Another significant challenge that the committee is working on is organizing a School Health Screening the first week of February 2016. If by God's grace everything comes together, we believe the screening can lead to fundamental changes in Batey 7. It will provide the committee simple and clear information about the health of their village's children. Together with the community, they can then determine what the next step should be; with the baseline information they also will be able to measure the impact of any activity or program that they decide to carry out.

Jenny and I want to express how grateful we are for your part in making these stories possible. Through you God is doing incredible things and it is a privilege to be part of that. Please continue to be part of our support family in this coming year.

Please also keep the rural families in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti in your prayers as well. They have been dealing with serious drought for two years now and many rural families in both countries are facing a long dry season with very little to harvest.

In Christ,  
Mark

*Excerpt from A letter from Mark Hare in the U.S. on Interpretation Assignment from Haiti/Dominican Republic - December 2015-January 2016 – Changes*

For the complete letter and more information about Missionaries Mark Hare and Jenny Bent go to BPC's website [www.brickpresby.com](http://www.brickpresby.com), from the toolbar choose "Mission", scroll down to "MISSIONARY", click on the link in the paragraph, or go to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

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## DID YOU KNOW...



That some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S hold CWS (Church World Service) events. This helps provide funds to help people in need around the world. For over 60 years, CWS has worked with local communities in partnership to identify their needs and help access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more possible future.

Including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields.
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean safe water to drink and to irrigate gardens and crops.
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Blanket Sunday funds go to CWS to purchase blankets for distribution in disaster areas and for camps for displaced people. It's a collection to provide warmth to those in need.

*Excerpted from CWS/Blanket Sunday*

## Have you seen the Presbyterian Giving Catalog?



***Looking for a special gift that can really make a difference?*** Consider selecting from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. The purchase and distribution of animals, the building of wells to provide life giving clean water, and ministries to youth and young adults are among some of the many ways your gift can fill a need, make an impact, and provide hope while expanding our witness to God's grace and abundant work here in the United States and around the globe. ***For more information and gift ideas, please feel free to take a 2015-2016 Presbyterian Giving Catalog from the display on the table outside the Family Life Center.***