

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

February 2013

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## Looking At, Through, and Beyond the Headlines

During the past month, there have been a number of news stories that lead me to ask, “Where is God in all of this?” “Is God trying to tell me/us something?” “What are the spiritual values that are present – absent – or overlooked?”

Certainly the political struggle in Washington politics over fiscal management and the “fiscal cliff” has revealed members in both parties who are more concerned with their side winning. The finger pointing, name calling and blame game of degrading and disrespecting those who disagree, has accomplished precious little for the common good.

Someone recently reported that the damage to Ocean County alone by Sandy exceeded the damage done by Katrina to the entire state of Louisiana. Yet, the slow response of the U.S. Congress in putting together a relief package and the efforts of those to tag the package along the way with “political pork” that had nothing to do with Sandy Relief and Recovery, might raise some concern.

Recent reports about Lance Armstrong using banned substances which he had long denied, are also distressing. Seeing a cycling hero stripped of titles and medals after being exposed for violating rules leaves those who once perceived him as an inspiration feeling betrayed and let down.

It is easy to look out there – to places like Washington – to the fields of competition like La Tour De France – and elsewhere. It is easy for me, and perhaps all of us, to say shame on them. But, that is so easy to do. It allows one to feel falsely safe and secure within one’s own perspective, removed from the perspective of those who do not share our take on things.

In a polarized world, perhaps a different approach to one another needs to be considered – an approach that does not worship one’s own ideology as though it is the truth and other perspectives are lesser. Maybe it might be needful to stop looking at those with whom we differ as “opponents.”

In a world that worships power, winning over others, domination, and making a name for one’s self – where being a success, as the world defines success, is central, another focus needed. In a world that divides people into winners and losers – perhaps we need to ask, “Where is God in all of this?” “Is this even godly?” “Who can we look up to for inspiration and as a role model?”

As I wrestle with these questions, the flagrant struggles I see externally may reflect less grandiose, but no less significant, spiritual battles within me. I have a hunch this is not unique to me. I think there is a voice speaking through the ages to me, as we approach the Lenten season. It’s the voice of One who says: “learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matt 11:29. Could it be the Lord is saying to each of us and our world, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.” – Mark 9:35?

In a world full of self-justification and rationalization – a world we all live in and of which there are many participants – maybe God is closer to us in the headlines that we realize. Perhaps the Lord is calling us back to Jesus in whom we find “...the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

An old country preacher once said, “I am never so high up as when I am on bended knee.”

May God’s love in Jesus Christ be with you,  
Pastor Doug

**YOU'RE INVITED ...  
TO THE ANNUAL  
"COME MEET YOUR SHEPHERD" COFFEE HOUR**

On Sunday, February 24 following the 9 A.M. worship service, your shepherds will meet and greet members and friends, old and new. Due to the ongoing restoration efforts following Sandy, some areas of our church family and their shepherds, who were also impacted, have lost touch. We hope this invitation will bring us ALL TOGETHER for warm friendship and fellowship with neighbors and fellow congregants. For those attending the 9 A.M. service, stop by after to enjoy hot coffee or tea, with plenty of pastries, muffins, and other home baked goods in the Family Life Center. The 11 o'clockers are invited to come early and warm up with all your family, old and new, before worship. This annual event is an opportunity to come face to face with those who attempt to keep this church family connected throughout the year. If you haven't met your shepherd or have lost touch, now's the chance at this fun event. COME ON OUT!!!!



**Coffee Hour**



**The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on  
February 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM.**

**HARVEST DINNER**

The Harvest Dinner –which was postponed due to Hurricane Sandy - will be on **Sunday, February 17th at 12:15 pm**. Prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 6-12 years and under 6 are free. If you already bought your ticket, it's still good. If you bought it, but lost it, we have the list. If you planned on attending in November, but aren't able to in February, you can get a refund at our table in the Narthex. If our cooks are still willing to cook turkeys for us, please let Lois or Donna know. Since it's in February, we're asking for donations of Valentine desserts. Hope to see you there!



**PW and Faithful Remnants**

On Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30am – 11:00am, we will be having a Workshop for Little Dresses for Appalachia. Bring scissors, a queen size pillowcase, bias tape, and pins. For more information, contact Lori at [Quilters@brickpresby.com](mailto:Quilters@brickpresby.com).



## House of Hope Café

Do you like magic? If so, come to the House of Hope Café on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, and see Gospel Magic with The Reverend Gary Filson from the Jamesburg Presbyterian Church. Our own BPC Praise Team will also be singing.

### “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](http://www.brickpresby.com)

### **FLC Kitchen Training**

The PB&G Committee would like to host training on using the kitchen in the Family Life Center! We will be having a sign-up sheet in the Narthex over the next month and would like to schedule training between services in February and March depending on the demand. Please fill in your name, phone number and someone will call to let you know when to arrive for the training. If more information is needed, please contact Craig through the church office (732-477-0676)

*Thank you, The Property, Building, & Grounds Committee*



## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Any high school students are invited to join. The Sr. High Youth Group helps in our church, does community service work and has fun going on trips together.

Our first Meeting/Movie Night was on Jan. 13th. On Banner Night, we designed and decorated the Souper Bowl of Caring Banners for the Teams in the Super Bowl.

FEBRUARY EVENT: **2/3/13** - SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - Before & After Church Services - Collect Donations

*He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

*If you have any questions, please contact  
Susan or Roberta at [SrHi@brickpresby.com](mailto:SrHi@brickpresby.com)*

### **Junior High Youth Group**

The Junior High Youth Group had a great time bowling and creating banners for the Souper Bowl of Caring that will be held on February 3rd. The Youth Groups will be displaying their banners and collecting donations in between services to help with the Ocean County Hunger Relief Program.

Upcoming events for the Youth Group are:

February 3rd Souper Bowl of Caring  
February 3rd - Food packaging at St. Pauls Church 2pm - 4pm  
February 16th - Set up for Harvest Dinner  
February 17th - Harvest Dinner 12:00pm (Serving)

Any child between the grades 6 - 8th are welcome to come out to the Junior High Youth group at any time. Please come out see what all the fun is about.

Junior High Youth Leaders: Tom, Kathy & Debbie

*The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Psalm 126:3*

### **Continuing Education Awards**

Application Letters for Continuing Education Awards will be available in both the church office and the Christian Education Office as of February 1, 2013. You must be a senior graduating high school this June and planning to attend college or trade school in the fall. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me [christianeducation@brickpresby.com](mailto:christianeducation@brickpresby.com)

## Fundraising News

**Simko's:** Thank you to everyone who participated in our Deacon's Hurricane Relief Fund fundraiser at Simko's!

**Stream Energy :** Our Stream Energy fundraiser is up and running. If you switch your energy provider through us you will not only save money but Stream Energy will donate **\$4.00 per month** to our building expansion fund. Just bring us your current electric bill and we'll do the rest or you can log on to the church's account @ [brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz](http://brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz). Look for our table at the church or contact us through the website, or contact either Jeff Law (732-779-4499 or [Lawjeffrey1@gmail.com](mailto:Lawjeffrey1@gmail.com)) or



Patrice Law) for more information. Please don't switch your energy provider until you talk to us!

**Restaurants:** Keep an eye out on the website or in the church bulletin for our next restaurant fundraiser to benefit the Deacons Hurricane Relief Fund.

**Blue Claws:** We will soon be selling tickets for our annual Blue Claws fundraiser. This year's game will be on **Friday July 26<sup>th</sup>** and will be a **firework's night**. Tickets will again be \$10, and early purchases will put you in a drawing for All-Star Game tickets being held this year at First Energy Park. As usual we need to sell 250 tickets to make this a very successful fundraiser so please help us out by selling some for us to your friends and co-workers. It will be a great night at First Energy Park!

**Blue Claws Concession Stand:** On **Friday July 12<sup>th</sup>** we will once again be looking for **20 volunteers** to work at First Energy Park for a very generous donation. Please help us out, sign up early, mark it on your calendar to come out and help us raise money for our building expansion fund! Thank you!

## Did You Know...

... that February 17<sup>th</sup> is Health Awareness and Prayer for Healing Day. A day to reflect on the gift of life God has given us and to faithfully take care of our bodies, minds and souls.

Over the past year, the Health Ministry has scheduled various programs to bring awareness to certain health issues. Scheduling blood pressure screenings, blood drives, a flu shot clinic, and a discussion on living with Alzheimer's, to name a few.

Healthcare reform has been at the forefront of political and news discussions. Everyone deserves the right to quality health care whether they can afford or not. Let us pray for all those facing a health crisis that God may give them the strength to overcome.



**February is Heart month  
so check out the following tips to protect your heart !**

- **Protect Your Heart.** Heart disease is the number one killer of men in the United States. Nothing ages you faster than mistreating your heart. Gain more control over your cardiovascular health by eating a diet low in saturated fat and sugar, working out regularly, and not smoking. For extra heart protection, follow these steps:
- **Include fish in your meals each week.** Choose fish such as salmon, haddock, mackerel, or tuna, which are high in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. Studies suggest that eating fish two or three times a week may reduce your risk of heart disease. Omega-3 supplements are another option, but check with your doctor first.
- **Stay active during your downtime.** Studies show that people who engage often in leisure-time physical activities, such as taking a bike ride or brisk walk, have a lower risk of heart disease compared with people who pass their free time less actively. Two hours per week of leisure-time activities may decrease heart disease risk by as much as 61%. It just goes to show that playing like a kid can help you avoid aging.
- **Meet your daily requirement for magnesium.** Research suggests that men who get adequate magnesium from their diets have a lower risk of heart disease compared with men who don't get enough. Aim to get 400–500 milligrams of magnesium each day.



**HELP WANTED: DRIVER**

BPC's Transportation Ministry is seeking one or more drivers from our Church community to provide a ride to worship services for one of our faithful members, who is currently unable to drive. *This faithful member lives in the vicinity of Princeton Avenue in Brick.* Drivers should be available one or two Sundays per month, for either the 9:00 or 11:00 service (your preference -- our member can adapt to your schedule.) If you are able to help meet this need, please send an email to Joan at [transportation@brickpresby.com](mailto:transportation@brickpresby.com) for further details. Thank you.



## From the Deacons Bench



The Lenten season of fasting and penitence will begin on February 13th (Ash Wednesday) in preparation for our celebration of the Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Deacons will be checking the stock in our pantry to ensure that we will be able to once again fill food baskets that will be distributed to those in need in our community. We encourage you to donate canned goods and grocery items to the food pantry in the coming weeks. We also welcome donations of hams and turkeys. Meat donations may be dropped off at the church for storage in the freezer until the assembly of the food baskets on the weekend of Palm Sunday (March 24th).

It won't be long before thoughts turn to plans for planting gardens and sprucing up properties in anticipation of the warmer weather. Yet we recognize that many families in our congregation are still coping with the effects of Hurricane Sandy and some are a long way from feeling as though they have recovered. A Hurricane Relief Fund has been established to earmark and distribute funds specifically received by our church for storm assistance. In the coming months, we anticipate that grants will be available to those in our church family who have suffered hardship as a result of the storm. Applications will be made available for those seeking assistance. Please watch for further information!



### HELP WANTED (NEEDED)

During and after the devastation that struck our community and church family, the Shepherds of Brick Presbyterian made an effort to contact each of the members and friends of the congregation. The intent was to offer words of comfort, prayers, and keep all informed of available assistance such as the hot meals so many volunteers prepared and served at the Family Life Center. The hope was to offer a caring, listening ear, share tears and where possible a hug when we were able to come together. Unfortunately due to power failures which interfered with telephone contact, both cell and landlines, as well as illness, necessary relocations, and those shepherds whose own homes were lost or suffered severe damage, all the contacts could not be made. Though the chain has not been broken, some of the links are missing. All have agreed in the past that these contacts to keep our church family connected are meaningful. We are in need of volunteers who are willing to join the shepherding program. The time necessary to be part of this chain is minimal, but the value is great. If you are among those who could devote themselves to be a link, please call Bette through the church office (732-477-0676) to arrange to receive additional information. Your efforts would be so appreciated!