

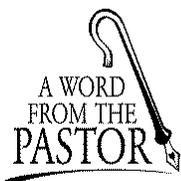
# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

February 2017

---

## Reflections on a President, Jesus and Our Need for One Another



This month we celebrate President's Day. As we I think about our Presidents, I recall how Abraham Lincoln referred to scripture saying: "a house divided against itself cannot long stand." Lincoln was using those words to address a nation torn apart by strong conflicts over the institution of slavery. In his wisdom, Lincoln knew that our nation needed a commitment to be a United States. States leaving the union would only weaken the nation and would diminish those that left, whether they realized it or not.

I find that our congregation and the Church in general is at its best when all of its members pull together as a united body of believers in being the body of Christ in the world. It is so easy to think that our absence or our presence on Sunday mornings doesn't matter as we gather for worship and Sunday School. But it is a mistake to think that our absence does not matter, for it does. When we choose to be present, our presence makes our hymns one voice stronger. Our presence in a pew is a visual reinforcement to others that we stand united in spirit to worship and serve Jesus Christ.

Last month I was out ill one Sunday and could not lead worship. I took great joy in knowing that I could pass my sermon notes and prayers on to those present, knowing that they would carry the ball for me.

In the Old Testament, we read how Moses grew weary in a battle and when his arms grew tired and could not be held up, the enemies of Israel prevailed. But when the Elder helped hold up Moses' weary arms, that army of Israel prevailed over its enemies. It took team work and mutual support of those committed to God to carry the day.

So it is with our life in Jesus Christ. We as a congregation are only as strong as our commitment to serve and worship the Lord as a united body. We are not islands unto ourselves as some might like to mistakenly think. The absence of any one of us diminishes the whole of us. Likewise, the presence of one of us can enhance our witness in the world, even when we don't think so.

A single strand of thread by itself isn't very strong. But as strands of thread are wrapped together, those strands become stronger, reinforcing one another becoming a strong rope. Each of us are perhaps like a single strand of thread. Yet when we are united and wrapped together in the love of God found in Jesus Christ we become like a strong rope. Jesus understood this as he prayed for the unity of his disciples in John's gospel. Jesus did what he prayed for as he called very different people to be a team that did and does God's work. It's something to think about, is it not as we reflect on the wisdom of Lincoln and the witness of scripture.



## “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 FM (943ThePoint.com)**  
**NewsTalk Radio WOBM 1160 & 1310 AM (wobm.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](http://www.brickpresby.com)**



## Evangelism/Outreach

Don't forget to “Catch a Friend, Bring ‘Em in” on **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.  
It's coffee hour Sunday, so invite a friend for coffee and fellowship.



## 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

Calling all Youth Group Alumni! **We would like to find out when the Shop and Lock In originated.** If anyone has knowledge of this, we would love to know. I always get asked "how long has your church been doing this" and we would like to thank them for this awesome experience. This year because of your generous donations we were able to provide a record **31 children** with everything on their wish list.



**The jars for coins are going to be placed in the Narthex again,** fill the jars with your loose change and return the Christian Ed Office., we collected approx. **\$400** in loose change for our "*Earn Your Wings*" project last year.



On **February 5th**, the Youth Groups will be out in the Narthex collecting donations for the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. All donations go to the Ocean County Hunger Relief Program so come on over to the table that represents the team you would like to see win the Super Bowl. Last year we raised \$841.00!

On **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, the Youth Groups will be going to Shorrock Gardens to hand out Valentines, we will meet in the church parking lot at 1:15 for a 1:30 visit.

*There will be a Junior High Youth Group meeting on February 26th from 6:00 to 7:30pm in the Family Life Center.*

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! Psalm 133:1*



**Your contributions throughout 2016** helped to give the gift of clear vision for those in need. In November, a shipment from our church containing 37 pairs of eyeglasses, 5 pairs of sunglasses, 3 watches and assorted jewelry was forwarded to this very worthy organization that purchases new prescription eyeglasses for U.S. residents in financial need and distributes used glasses to the disadvantaged in developing countries. **Thank you for your donations and please keep them coming in 2017!**



Your donations to the **Christmas Joy Special Offering totaled \$1,294**. These donations will support the education and formation of Christian leaders and also honor those leaders who serve and have served us well through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.



*Thank you for your contributions to this special offering.*

### GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS

**Thank You to Our Amazing Congregation** for all your generous donations to our food pantry during this 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 items as well as items for the military. Lists of needed items may be found on the BPC web site. Thank you, and God bless you.



Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church if you sign up with them for savings on your gas and/or electric bills. **See Patrice** to find out how you can save money this winter!

### WORKING TOGETHER TO REALIZE THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE PRESENT



***Thank you*** to everyone who returned their pledge cards. As of January 4th, **98** pledges of prayers and finances totaling **\$174,765** have been received. Your pledges help the leadership of our church as we plan for ministries, activities and upkeep of our church campus throughout the year. If you have not already done so, we encourage to return your pledge card to the church. It's not too late! Every person and every gift makes a difference. Together and with God's help, we can do amazing things for our Lord and our community.

## What is Per Capita?

In the box of offering envelopes for 2017, you may have noticed an envelope near the front of the box labeled “**per capita**” and the label on the top of your box noting, “Per capita for 2017 is **\$36.00 per member.**” Like many Presbyterians, you may wonder, “Exactly what does per capita do?”



*Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians. (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).*

Paying per capita is similar to contributing one’s dish to a potluck meal; paying to be connected to the Internet; paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone; or pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. Our church pays the designated per capita assessment based on our membership to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. You may make your per capita payment of \$36.00 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.



### Pastor Chase has a NEW Email Address

Please do not use the discarded Yahoo account. The new and correct address for contacting or pastor is: [dg.chase27@gmail.com](mailto:dg.chase27@gmail.com)

*Thank you for making the change in your digital address book.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Brick Presbyterian,



Thank you for the wonderful and blessed opportunity to be your Organist, Keyboardist and Hand Bell Choir Director for the last 18 months.

I have enjoyed working with the Hand Bell Choir, assisting with the Praise Team and Adult Choir, playing the organ, helping with Power Point presentations and more. Preparing music in such a fashion is a real honor and I thank our Lord for this opportunity He has given me.

I enjoyed working with everyone as we prepared for each Worship experience, both formal and informal; and I appreciate the support, flexibility and patience shared by all. Lynn and I have made a lot of friends and the list would be too long to mention each person we'll miss.

We pray He will continue to bless you as He has in the past and look forward to future opportunities when we might be able to worship together.

Grace and Peace to you all,

*Rich and Lynn Christen*