

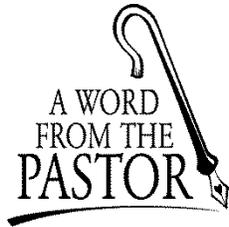
# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

February 2012

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## Pastor Doug's Thoughts on Tolerance and Convictions In a Conflicted World



Traveling recently I came across a bumper sticker that read: "Tolerance is the Luxury of Those without Conviction." The words floated in my mind for a bit. For a moment I could comprehend how someone might say that. Then, I wondered, "What Jesus might think about that bumper sticker?" Jesus was certainly a person of great conviction, sharing God's love and grace with all sorts of people. Jesus preached and read scripture in the temple. Yet, temple authorities were critical of Jesus' healing the sick on the Sabbath and letting his disciples glean grain when hungry on the Sabbath.

In the parable of the "Good Samaritan" Jesus offended those who had contempt for the Samaritans by holding up a Samaritan as an example of compassion. Those who were convinced good people ought to avoid "sinners" and other "less righteous" people were critical of Jesus' eating and drinking with "sinners," as-well-as his visit to the home of a corrupt tax-collector like Zacchaeus.

While Jesus forgave those who repented – while Jesus welcomed sinners – while the Lord also dined with those who were critical of him; one would be hard pressed to say Jesus was a man without conviction. Quite the contrary! Jesus in his love and divine concern for all people (rich or poor – church pillars or church dropouts – Jew or Gentile – standup citizens or scandal ridden souls) stood by his convictions of divine love and righteousness without being self-righteous and intolerant of those who did not share or embrace God's great love for us all. The biblical portrait of Jesus reveals the embodiment of a great conviction that loves those with whom one does not agree and whose values one may not share, without sacrificing faith, conviction or principal.

I wonder if the bumper sticker I saw conveyed more an attitude of masked self-righteousness and a judgmental spirit rather than a firm faith and conviction which can stand strong and compassionate without being antagonistic or wishy-washy.

There is a dangerous temptation to discount those who accept others without accepting differences in conviction, belief or behavior. Conviction and tolerance need not be exclusive. Heart-felt convictions need not force us to discount others because we aren't where they are. This may be worth considering as we deal with those with whom we find little in common in our daily conversations and relationships. Imagine how the world might be improved if we understood and embraced more of Jesus' approach to others. Paul's letter of 1 Corinthians 13 is worth reviewing regarding how we handle our convictions and one another. It's something to consider in a month of valentines.

## "COME MEET YOUR SHEPHERD" ANNUAL COFFEE HOUR



... and this year, we have our brand new, beautiful Family Life Center in which to meet - **no more stairs!** On Sunday, February 26, following the 9 A.M. worship service, your shepherds will meet and greet members and friends, old and new. This annual event is an opportunity to come face to face with those who attempt to keep our family of faith connected to each other and to church events through phone calls and notes. While enjoying coffee or tea and plenty of pastries, muffins, bagels, along with home-made baked goods, we have a chance to meet others of our church "area" who may be relocated or newer members. For those attending 9 A.M. worship, stick around; and the 11 o'clock-ers, 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 have one, we will be ready to point you in the right direction. This is a fun event, and we have the added "bonus" of the Health Ministry Team being present for free blood pressure checks. **COME ON OUT!!!!!!!**



Coffee Hour



New for 2012...

### "The House of Hope Cafe"

Brick Presbyterian Church will be starting a Coffee House in the Church Family Life Center with our first event scheduled for **March 17, 2012**. Stayed tuned for more details.....

### "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 FM  
New Jersey, 101.5 FM



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)

## Pastor Sponsored DVD Lenten Education Forum



Lent is a wonderful time for Christian people to contemplate their faith – the historic events and personalities that are a part of the events leading up to Jesus crucifixion.

This year your pastor is offering four Sunday evening, **History Channel** DVD events **starting at 6:00 p.m.** These events promise to be educational, informative and thought provoking. Each video presentation is approximately 1 hour long and will be followed by group discussion.

This forum is intended to be of interest for anyone who is of high school age or older. So come early to pop your microwave popcorn and bring your favorite soft drink, as we begin week one with a look at who was Pontius Pilate. Week two we will look at just who was Judas. On week three we will view a program about the trial of Jesus and on week four, we will watch a history channel presentation about the execution of Jesus.

- **Sun., February 26<sup>th</sup> – Pastor sponsored Lenten Program History Channel Video “Biography of Pontius Pilate”**
- **Sun., March 4<sup>th</sup> – Pastor sponsored Lenten Program of History Channel Video “Judas: Traitor or Friend?”**
- **Sun., March 11<sup>th</sup> -- Pastor sponsored Lenten Program of History Channel – “The Trial of Jesus”**
- **Sun., March 18<sup>th</sup> – Pastor sponsored Lenten Program of History Channel – “The Execution of Jesus”**

While it is not required the Pastor would appreciate knowing how many plan to attend these events, so that an appropriate meeting space can be arranged. So please call Judy in the church office at 732-477-0676 by Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> so we may have some idea of how many to anticipate. One last note, if you can't come to all of the events, come to those you can. And yes, friends are invited too.

**The Fellowship Committee  
is hosting a Pancake Breakfast  
on Sunday Feb 12, between services**



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF BRICK NEWS



The December gathering in the Family Life Center was tasty (covered dish food fabulous and plentiful) and fun! With the emphasis on the Coming of Our Savior, learning the stories behind our beloved Christmas carols and then singing them was a joyful noise.

If you saw the recent clip on national TV re the "Little Dresses for Africa" mission, you'll be glad to know our own PW will be sponsoring a workshop to be held in the Family Center on Saturday, March 10, to support this mission. Please keep the date open and check with PW Moderator, Carol Farley, or any member for details.

.... And remember, our next regular gathering will be on the 3rd Wednesday in March (that's March 21<sup>st</sup>!) at 12 Noon. We hope you can plan on being there.

### A New Mission Initiative, Little Dresses for Africa

This is a non-denominational Christian Mission Organization founded by Rachel O'Neill to provide simple dresses for orphans and school children in Africa. The Mission Statement is to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy and to make them feel pretty. The dresses also go to places around the world including Appalachia and South Dakota. Clothing bought at stores is not acceptable, as customs regulations for those items make import fees prohibitive.



Rachel O'Neill would like all Presbyterian Women and all women in our congregation to host a sewing day. Our PW is going to host a workshop on March 10, 2012 at 10:00AM. We need women to help cut, measure and pin and help design the front of the dresses. The Quilters will be on hand to help sew the dresses with sewing machines. If you would like to help make a dress, please see Lori Evans for patterns and sign up or click [here](#) for pattern.

The dresses will be going with Lori to the churchwide gathering for Presbyterian Women. Rachel O'Neill, Coordinator, serves on the Mission Committee in Louisville for Presbyterian Women.

## Fundraising News



Those of us on the Fundraising committee would like to thank all of you who supported our Pilot House fundraiser as well as all our other restaurant fundraisers. We hope you find these events an enjoyable way of supporting our church's mission as well as a time of fellowship with friends and church family. Please watch the bulletin and the website for upcoming events.

## Memorial Bricks

We are once again selling Bricks for the Memorial Garden pathway. The order forms are in the Narthex and on the website, just fill one out and return it to the church office with a check and we will add it to our pathway. 4x8 bricks are \$75.00 and 8x8 bricks are \$150.00. The walkway is underway and will be completed as soon as all the materials arrive and the weather allows. We thank those who have already purchased bricks for their patience.



## Open Invitation

If you have fundraising ideas and would like to be part of a fun informal committee please consider joining us at our next meeting. We're constantly looking for new ideas and would love to see you there. Our next meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm. Hope to see you then!

## A Tent City Ministry Update



The advent of the new year brought a flurry of court activity involving Tent City resulting in a ruling in Ocean County Superior Court that will allow the dwellers to remain in Lakewood for the foreseeable future. Perhaps the most important facet of the proceeding was the Court's recognition that government has a responsibility to the poor.

It is clear from the outpouring and support of our congregation that we hear our Lord's call to extend care and concern to these struggling neighbors. In January, the first meeting of the Tent City Relief Committee was held to clarify the direction of our ministry in this area as we seek to faithfully direct the energy and resources provided by our denomination, our presbytery, our church members and friends, and members of the community who wish to provide aid to Tent City through us. What started as a commitment on the part of the Board of Deacons to regularly deliver eggs and water as finances permitted has blossomed into regular deliveries of eggs, water, clothing, blankets and other items needed by those in the encampment; a successful work day at Tent City held by our youth groups and supportive adults; and continued interest on the part of our congregation to provide assistance to our brothers and sisters in need.

The next meeting of the Tent City Relief Committee will be held on February 19th at 10:15 a.m. in the Church Family Life Center. You are invited to grab a cup of coffee and a baked treat at the coffee hour and join us as we brainstorm and plan for some exciting ways to continue to share our congregation's concern with our neighbors in need. For further information, please feel free to contact Jean Reilly through the church office.

## Interest-Free Loans and Scholarships



Interest-Free Loans and Scholarships are available to all active members of a Presbyterian Church in the Synod of the Northeast for the upcoming school year (2012-2013) from the "The Karl, John, Elizabeth Wurffel Memorial Fund" and "The Allie L. Sills Memorial Fund." Applications must be received in the Synod Office by April 1, 2012.

Click [here](#) to download the New Applicant Form or the Re-Applicant Form.

## Preventive Recommendations of Immunization for All Adults



### Immunizations

Living healthy includes having immunizations at the right time. Please discuss these recommendation with your doctor!

Age Group	18-20	21-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-64	65-69	70+
TB Booster	One booster dose every 10 years								
HPV Vaccine	Women 26 and younger not previously vaccinated (3 doses at 0, 2, 6 months apart)								
Flu Vaccine	One dose yearly								
Hepatitis B Vaccine	3 doses over 6 months for those at risk of exposure								
Hepatitis A Vaccine	2 doses over 6-18 months for those at risk								
MMR Vaccine	At least 1 dose for adults born in 1957 or later and not previously infected or vaccinated. (Some may need second dose.) Don't get pregnant or plan to become pregnant in the next four weeks.							Certain high-risk groups	
Varicella Vaccine	2 doses 4-8 weeks apart if not previously vaccinated or infected with chicken pox. <i>Don't get pregnant or plan to become pregnant in the next four weeks.</i>								
Pneumococcal Vaccine	1-2 doses for anyone with chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems. One dose revaccination after 5 years is recommended for conditions that affect the immune system. <i>Residents of nursing homes and smokers should be vaccinated.</i>							One dose if never vaccinated or if vaccinated $\geq$ 5 years ago under the age of 65	
Zoster								One dose for adults aged $\geq$ 60 years	

*Presented for you by our Health Ministry Team*

## DID YOU KNOW???

... that the Presbyterian Church USA sponsors 5 missionaries in China?

“The church in China is experiencing a new unity in Christ and describes their church life as ‘post-denominational.’ They are determined to nourish this newfound unity in the face of potential fragmentation. Yet, at the same time, the church recognizes the rich diversity of the various traditions and communions out of which they have come. Since 1979 the number of churches has increased dramatically. There are over 50,000 churches and ‘meeting points’ open for public worship, among which more than 70 percent are newly built. The total number of Protestant believers is estimated at 20 million.” *(Quote from the Presbyterian Church USA website)*



The religions in China include Taoist, Buddhist, Christian and Muslim. It is encouraging to find various signs of Christianity in China. It was wonderful to see the Bible in a hotel drawer in Shanghai. With our prayer and support we can continue to spread Christianity.

*Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples:  
baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28: 19*

*By your Stewardship & Mission Committee*

## Youth Group



The Youth Group started the New Year off with a bang as we met for a meeting , games and ice cream then ended January making the banners and preparing the Narthex for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Our February calendar is as follows:

February 5<sup>th</sup> - Souper Bowl of Caring – in between services and after 2<sup>nd</sup> service  
February 19<sup>th</sup> - Meeting at 6:00pm (Family Life Center)



You can mark your calendars with the following upcoming dates in March:

March 11 – meeting at 6:00pm (Family Life Center)  
March 25 – meeting at 6:00pm (Family Life Center) making palm crosses.

Please take note that the spring retreat will be at Camp Johnsonburg. The dates for the retreat will be May 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>. More info will be available in March but if you should have any questions please contact Tom, Kathy or Debbie.

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