

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

January 2014

Receiving the Gift of the New Year – A Pastoral Reflection



As you read this, we have begun a new calendar year. With the New Year comes a time full of new opportunities and possibilities. In many ways, the year 2014 is a gift from the Lord to us. How can this be? Perhaps because yesterday and the past year are just that, they are “past” us, and beyond our reach to retrieve and relive, apart from our memories. As the current day becomes yesterday and thus the past – so the future which is that not yet place of anticipation, becomes our today. And what do we call today, but the “present.” It is a “present” for it comes to us an unearned gift from the Lord and Giver of all life. But one needs to be open and receptive to receive a gift.

I’d like to share with you a story about a little child whose small hands were once holding a number of very pretty marbles. Each marble was unique and very pretty to the child for different reasons. In holding those marbles, the child’s hands were clasped tight around the marbles, forming a tight fist, so as to keep the marbles from escaping the child’s grasp. However there was one very large marble the child also wanted. It was unlike any of the other marbles in either hand. Its colors and patterns were like no other marble the child had ever seen. The child attempted to pick this new marble up and hold it with all of the marbles, but could not. Suddenly the child realized one could not hold all the old marbles with clenched hands and still be able to pickup and receive the desired new marble. It was necessary to risk giving up what had been in hand in order to hold the new desired marble being offered. Eventually the child decided to open one hand and let a few of the old marbles go in order to receive the gift of that new marble.

Sometimes, we have to open ourselves up, and let go of things we have cherished in the past in order to receive the new “present(s)” the Lord has to offer us. Change is often about letting go, so we can receive and hold something new. If we long for something new and different in our lives, we sometimes have to decide what we are willing to let go. This is true for us as individuals and as a congregation. St. Paul put it this way, “...if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All of this is from God...” (2 Cor. 5: 17-18).

May we be open to the new creation the Lord offers us one and all in 2014.

Wishing you all the blessings that God offers in Christ, our Emanuel,
Pastor Doug



Call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation Of Brick Presbyterian Church

The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Brick Presbyterian Church will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2014 in the Family Life Center at the Church at 111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723 starting at 12:15 (following the 11:00 worship service). The meeting will begin with a light lunch.

Business to be conducted includes the following: the receiving of annual reports from boards, committees, groups and organizations of the congregation. Other actions will include establishing the Pastor's terms of call, nomination and election of persons to serve on Session, the Board of Deacons and the Standing Nominating Committee. There will also be a review of the church's financial reports. The meeting will also deal with any constitutionally appropriate business brought forth by members of the congregation from the floor.

It is very important that all members of the congregation be present. Your voice and vote matter. The decisions made at this meeting affect all of us.

If you are the Chairman of a Committee/Group that usually has a report in the Annual Meeting Packet, please send your reports via e-mail to dg.chase@yahoo.com.

“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:

The Hawk 105.7FM
New Jersey 101.5 FM
WOBM 92.7 FM
Lite Rock 96.9 FM
The Point 94.3 FM
SoJo 104.9 FM

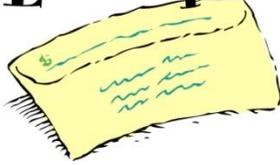


For Sunday worship services, the earliest time for such closure announcements would normally be after 7:30 AM.

You may also check the Church Website for weather related closings and cancellations by going to www.brickpresby.com

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES

Offering Envelopes



The 2014 offering envelope boxes are now available in the church narthex. The boxes have donor's names on them and the per capita figure is also on the name label. If you do not find your box with your name or would like to have a box of envelopes, please contact Karen Ellis, our Financial Secretary at financialsecretary@brickpresby.com. Thank you for saving us the labor and expense of mailing by picking your box up at the church.

Confirmation Class

We always look forward to the confirmation of faith by our young people, for they are the strength and future of the church. There will be an organizational meeting of the 2014 Confirmation Class in the church parlor following the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 5, 2014. All parents and their confirmation candidate students are encouraged to attend this meeting. At this meeting we will receive registration information, discuss class expectations, and work out a regular meeting time for the class. We are pleased to let you know that Vic Erickson will be assisting Pastor Chase with this year's class. We look forward to your being with us at this important meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Doug at dg.chase@yahoo.com or call the church office.



The Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship Fund Dinner

The Harvest Dinner hosted annually by the Christian Education Committee as a fundraiser for our church's scholarship fund has been appropriately renamed as The Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship Fund Dinner. On Sunday, February 9, 2014, we invite you to join us for lunch at our own Italian Bistro in the Family Life Center. If you attend, you will enjoy delicious, catered Italian entrees, an impressive salad bar, fresh Italian bread, and authentic Italian pastries, as well as, coffee, tea, and cold beverages. The luncheon will begin at 12:15 following the conclusion of the 11:00 am service. Tickets will be \$10 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5-12, and children 5 and under will be free of charge. Tickets will be available for purchase in the Narthex beginning Sunday, January 12th. Please join us to raise money for a great cause, to enjoy delicious food, and of course some wonderful church family fellowship. What could be better on cold February afternoon?

Church Administrative Assistant to Pastor Update

It is with heavy hearts that we have had to say good-bye to our beloved Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, Judy Foley. Judy has served us and our Lord with great skill and faithfulness over the past year and a half. Many who called the office or stopped by found her to be a capable and always friendly soul greeting you and addressing the needs of our congregation and community. As many of you may know Judy was taken ill and hospitalized in November, and has spent an extended period of time in post hospital physical therapy. Unfortunately a combination of health issues befell her, making it impossible for her to resume her duties here at the church. Because of this, Judy, with a heavy heart, submitted her resignation to the Session.

Our Personnel Committee and Session are now working on finding a qualified person to fill the vacancy in our church office. We know that you join us in holding Judy in your prayers and wish her the very best in the future.

During this time of transition, we ask for your prayers to be with our church in seeking a new person, and for your understanding, if Pastor Doug and our wonderful volunteers who are holding things together aren't as fast at responding to your needs and request.

Youth Groups



The Youth Groups would like to thank the congregation for your record breaking contributions totaling \$2,927.00 for our "Earn your Wings" mission project. We were able to provide 20 children with a wonderful Christmas, one they will never forget. That is 5 more children than last year. You have definitely "Earned your Wings"

The Youth Groups spent the evening shopping at Target, wrapping gifts, playing games, singing, eating ice cream and sleeping very little in the church. It was a wonderful night of experiencing the true meaning of giving and fellowship.

The leaders are putting the calendar together for the upcoming months, here are some upcoming events.

- January 5th** - Meeting (Jr high) 6:00pm
- January 19th** - Bowling
- January 26th** - Meeting (Jr & Sr High) 6:00pm (Banners for Souper Bowl)
- February 2nd** - Collect donations for Souper Bowl of Caring (in between services)
- February 9th** - Serve at the "Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship Fund Dinner"
12:00pm

"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth." Psalm 71:5

Boy Scouts of America
Troop 60
Brick, NJ 08723



Dear Parents,

As many of you are aware our church sponsors a Boy Scout Troop. Troop 60 has been a part of our church for over two decades. Many Eagle Scouts have graduated from Troop 60. Recently a life long member of our church completed his Eagle project in our downstairs fellowship hall.

If your son is interested in hiking, camping and learning life skills he may be a good candidate for scouting. Scouting has a reputation for helping youth develop self reliance, strong character, respect for others, good citizenship skills and physical and mental fitness.

Scouting has been around for over a century; the programs have instilled in young men the values and knowledge they need to become leaders in life.

If you are interested towards building a solid future for your son and are willing to support his growth please contact Chuck Cumella at 908-600-4398.

Boys must be at least 10 years old and in the fifth grade to join as a scout.

Thank you,
Robert Fairchild
Scout Master, Troop 60

DEACONS

Christmas Food Baskets



The Board of Deacons distributed 58 food baskets for Thanksgiving and would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the members of our congregation for their generosity. Your donations of canned goods, grocery items and monetary donations made this possible.

The Deacons have assembled and distributed 45 food baskets for Christmas and want to thank the congregation for the tremendous task of replenishing our depleted pantry following the Thanksgiving food basket assembly.

On Dec 14th, the Board of Deacons and the Youth groups visited the Geraldine L. Thompson Care Center for an afternoon of Christmas carols and fellowship. Lap robes and gift bags were distributed to the residents and were warmly received and appreciated. Everyone enjoyed the fun afternoon and spirits were lifted. Thank you to everyone who participated and to all who were involved in making it a success.

The 2013 Christmas Festival

Each year the Christmas Festival proves to be an enjoyable time for all and this year was no exception. Our Sunday School Christmas Play was a success under the dedicated direction of Mike Slater. A team of volunteers helped to make it all happen by outfitting the children with costumes, washing and repairing the costumes, steadyng up the props, and leading the musical accompaniment. A big thank you to Kindra Slater, David and Donna Ferry, Penny Chandler, Fran Lake, and Christy Tompkins. Roberta Kleban did an excellent job of planning, preparing and supervising the craft table which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you Roberta! We cannot say enough about the contributions of the Fellowship Committee, especially Craig Trautweiler, Bob Blair, Gary and Susan Avazier and Mary Ann Stevens. They did so much to make this event enjoyable. The food was delicious as always and the arrival of Santa on a 1929 Fire Truck was a special treat. The children were able to share their Christmas wishes with Santa and receive a candy cane. Thank you to all who attended the event and those who also brought a dessert. It truly was a wonderful time of celebration and fellowship and we look forward to next year.

Stream Energy Isn't Just For Summer



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for our Stream Energy fundraiser! The good news is if you haven't already switched your electric provider, **it's not too late**. Also, we are excited to announce the addition of the natural gas opportunity.

Now, whether you have already taken advantage of the savings with the electric, or you are new to the opportunity entirely, you can switch your natural gas and help the church! The summer months are well behind us but we still use electric and natural gas all year long. Regardless of your consumption Stream Energy will continue to donate **\$4.00 per month** for each **electric** customer and now an additional **\$1.50 per month** for each **natural gas** customer to our building expansion fund. Just bring us your current electric and/or gas bills and we'll do the rest, or you can log on to our account @ brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz. Look for our table at the church, contact us through the church's website, or contact either Jeff Law (732-779-4499 or Lawjeffrey1@gmail.com) or Patrice Law (732-779-7242) for more information. Come join the growing list of people who are helping the church while saving money every month with Stream and **Please** don't switch your energy provider until you talk to us!

For Your Info



On October 22nd our congregation participated in The Peacemaking Offering Program. This offering seeks to promote peace of Christ throughout the Presbyterian Church. These funds are divided three ways: 25% to our congregation, 25% to the Presbytery and Synod, and 50% to the General Assembly.

This year you, the members and friends of this Church donated \$750 to the Peacemaking program. Remember it was YOU who made this possible with your generosity!

The Stewardship and Mission Committee thanks you for your commitment to our Mission giving.

Peace at all times in all ways. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

What's the Secret in Keeping a New Year's Resolution?

In January

- Track your progress by recording or charting your changed behavior. Research indicates that such “self-monitoring” increases the probability of keeping the resolution.
- Reward your successes. Reinforce yourself for each step with a (healthy) treat or compliment. Perhaps create a reward contract with a loved one.
- Build in a healthy behavior incompatible with your problem. For example, learn assertion if your resolution is to be less passive, or learn to relax if you are resolved to decrease stress.
- Arrange your environment to help, rather than hinder, you. Limit exposure to high-risk situations and create reminders for your resolutions. If you are limiting the sweets, don't hang out in the bakery.
- Expect occasional slips in your resolutions. Most successful resolvers slip in January. But a slip need not be a fall; pick yourself up and recommit to your resolution after a slip. Don't let one missed exercise class end the exercise program. One research study showed that 71% of successful resolvers said their first slip had actually strengthened their efforts.
- Avoid self-blame after a slip. Frequent self-blame predicts who will give up soon.



February and Beyond

- Cultivate social support. The buddy system works! And buddies can be coworkers, family members, friends, or fellow resolvers.
- Think of resolutions as marathons, not 100-yard dashes. Prepare for the long haul of a changed lifestyle.
- Prepare for slips associated with negative emotions and social pressures. Create a “slip plan” to deal with those situations once into February. Consider, for example, leaving the pressured situation, distracting yourself, and calling a friend, and remind yourself that a slip (lapse) need not be a fall (relapse).
- Avoid getting negative about yourself or your slips -- be positive about your successes!
- Remember that meaningful change takes time. It takes three to six months before a change becomes routine.

[Answered by John C. Norcross, PhD](#), Psychologist