

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

July/August 2013

The Blessing of Unplugging



I recently took a fly fishing trip in a remote area of Maine. Traveling to the camp I found that my reasonably new and updated GPS did not chart some of the roads I needed to travel. Upon my arrival at the camp, I called Linda to let her know that I had safely arrived at the camp. The cell phone connection there wasn't the best, as the call dropped a couple of times before our conversation was completed. My cabin was comfortable with hot water, a wood stove, and electric lights.

As I began my week of unwinding – decompressing – and letting God restore my mind, body and soul, I found it amazing how wonderful it was not being “plugged in” to those things we call necessities. I had limited cell phone availability and no radio, no television, no computers or internet service for the week. (I know there are many who might say, how can one live without these things?)

But as I settled into a week without these modern “necessities” and the constant flood of e-mails, text messages, TV & radio bombardment of the latest news, ads, some amazing things began to happen. My mind for that week did not feel compelled to respond to things so quickly, because one can't respond to what one has not received. The lack of news about the latest calamity in the world and the constant updates on wars, political tensions, etc. weren't in the background of my consciousness, making me be subconsciously anxious – because I had no news reports coming at me from a radio, TV or computer to fuel anxiety.

For just a couple of days I kicked back – threw a fishing line upon the water – felt the wind blowing over the lake – noted the loons swimming and diving – eagles soaring high in the sky – and noticed the caddis hatching on the pools in the stream. In the stillness, I was able to let go of daily preoccupations. In the stillness, I was able to breathe in the life sustaining air more deeply. In the stillness, life's cares slowly seemed less burdensome. In the stillness, I slept more deeply and found my body recovering a sense of well-being

As you enter this summer, may you feel God's healing presence that is often brushed aside by our constant flood of activity and bombardment of news, e-mails, and text messages. May you give yourself permission to sit in the stillness of God's sanctuary – to “unplug” from your cell phone and computer – “unplug” from your radio and TV set for just a little bit. May you breathe in the salt air at the beach – feel the sand between your toes – quietly watch the gulls soaring overhead and be still. And, in being still – in being unplugged for a little while, find the Lord restoring your strength, your faith, your soul and your sense of well-being.

In those moments as you intentionally shut the world and its troubles out, may you hear the voice of Jesus who rebuked the storm long ago, saying to your life's threatening storm: “Quiet! Be still!” Then, in the stillness and in the quiet, find the One whose power is greater than life's storms restoring you in mind, body and soul.

Peace be with you and with us all. Hope to see you at worship on Sundays.
Pastor Doug

SAVE THE DATES OF

JULY 14, 2013

Brick Presbyterian Church's



**Outdoor Service
And
Family Picnic Barbeque
At Windward Beach off Princeton Ave.**

Great Food, Beautiful Scenery

**Bring a friend or two, Don't forget your chairs and yes, PLEASE bring a dish
or two to share with everyone**

AND

August 11, 2013

**Informal Service in the Family Life Center
Followed by Refreshments**

Bring a friend!

***In case of inclement weather possibilities please check with the church office
that morning or check our website at www.brickpresby.com***

SAVE THE DATE!



House of Hope Café
Saturday, July 20, 2013
7:00pm – 10:00pm

featuring
Legacy By Right

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS



We will commence our Summer Worship Services on July 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM. The services will be held at this time through September 1, 2013. Weather permitting, there will be a service and picnic at Windward Beach on July 14, 2013 at 10:00 AM (no service at Brick Presbyterian Church, Drum Point Road). There will also be an informal service in the Family Life Center on August 11, 2013 at 10:00 AM with refreshments following the service. Child care will be available for all the services, except for July 14, 2013 and August 11, 2013.

Jesus Welcomes Children in Worship & We Do Too!

We want to encourage you to come to the Worship Services and bring your children with you during the summer. In Mark 10:14 Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God".(RSV) We are a loving congregation and love our children. They are our future. We recognize that children are not always able to sit quietly for a long period of time. That's understandable, but let's teach them that God loves them and we do too. Let us all be more like Jesus and welcome everyone - young and old - to worship with us.



Let the little children
come to me....

LUKE 10:16

CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR SUMMER SERVICES



for helping!

A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish to provide child care during the Worship Services during the summer months. We expect that if you wish to avail yourself of this service, that you will wish to take your turn also. The sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex. You don't need to have young children to enjoy working with them. Young people - Jr. and Sr. High School students will be welcomed also. The only requirement is that you enjoy children. Thank you

Vacation Bible School



Although Sunday School is not in session during the summer months we are hoping that you will see this year's VBS program as a way to keep your family connected to the church. VBS will be held every Wednesday beginning with July 10, 2013 through August 28, 2013 from 6:00-7:30 pm for grades pre-k through 8th. At the close of VBS each week we will be offering Family Fellowship from 7:30-8:30. This will be a time for the children and parents to socialize with our church family or participate in games and other activities. Volunteers are needed to make the program a success. Registration forms are available in the main office and the church school office. Registration is required. There is no fee and you do not have to attend every Wednesday.

It's a Great Day!

So sang the choir for our anthem on June 16th during our worship services. It was indeed a great day for during the Coffee Hour that followed the 9 a.m. worship service, the congregation gathered in the Family Life Center. Pastor Chase had Mark Ellis introduce the Building Expansion Committee, and then read sections of the mortgage document that was taken out for the construction of the building. Clerk of Session, Patrice Law, along with Mark Ellis then shredded the document before the congregation. Karen Ellis as Notary Public also helped with the shredding of the mortgage. Christy Tompkins led us in singing the Doxology, and Pastor Chase offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Then, those present were invited to take copies of the mortgage that had been placed at each table and bring their copies forward to share in the shredding of the mortgage. The Coffee Hour committee then treated us to a wonderful coffee hour.



Presbyterian Women of Monmouth Presbytery and The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



Ladies and Girls - you are invited to join a campaign of consciousness-raising to help end the violence against Women and Girls. The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women has announced "Orange Days," a campaign intended to call for an end to violence against women and girls globally. The campaign will use an orange ribbon as a symbol of our unity against this violence. You are invited to wear an orange ribbon on the 25th of each month to show your support of this effort. Let's make a difference on this important issue. See or contact Lori Evans, moderator of Presbyterian Women of Monmouth Presbytery for an orange ribbon. Encourage your girl friends, daughters, nieces and all women and girls to join in on the campaign. Together we can make a difference!

Fundraising News



Thank you! On behalf of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Belmar we wish to thank you all for supporting our fundraiser at Simko's restaurants. Once again, you've answered the call to help wherever it's needed, whether it's our building expansion fund, our Deacons fund, or another church which was damaged by a devastating storm. The fundraising committee wishes to thank you for supporting all our fundraising endeavors!

Stream Energy : Thank you to everyone who signed up for our Stream Energy fundraiser! 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 our account @ brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz. Look for our table at the church or contact us through the church's website, or contact either Jeff Law (732-779-4499 or Lawjeffreyl@gmail.com) or Patrice Law (732-779-7242) for more information. Come join the growing list of people who are saving money every month with Stream and **Please** don't switch your energy provider until you talk to us!



Memorial Bricks: **Hurry, Hurry, Hurry Sunday July 7th will be our last day to order bricks.** We've already got 15 more orders, If you would like to add your Memorial Brick to our walkway, please pickup an order form at the church or download one off the church website and return it to the church office with a check for \$75.00 for a 4x8 or \$150.00 for a 8x8 and we'll add your brick to our beautiful walkway in the Memorial Garden. We hope to be putting down this order sometime in the fall.



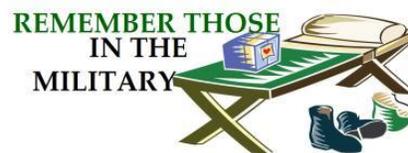
Blue Claws: Please look for our table for our annual Blue Claws fundraiser. This year's game will be on **Friday July 26th** and this will be a **firework's night!** Tickets will again be \$10, and early purchases will put you in a drawing for All-Star Game tickets being held this year at First Energy Park. As usual we need to sell 250 tickets to make this a very successful fundraiser so please help us out by selling some tickets 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 12th** we will once again be looking for **20 volunteers** to work at First Energy Park for a very generous donation. If you haven't signed up yet, please see Tim at the fundraising table to sign up. It's a fun way to help our Deacons help us!

Join with our Deacons and Remember Those in the Military

The summer months often bring vacations and a more relaxed mode of life. However, for those serving on duty in our armed forces, the vigilance required to protect our freedoms leaves little room for extended periods of rest and relaxation. Our church family continues to honor their contributions by collecting donations of items that are assembled by volunteers from American Recreational Military Services into care packages that are distributed to our service men and women serving overseas. The following items are welcomed and may be deposited in the collection bin in the narthex.



Chapstick	wool socks (white or green)	small powdered drink mix
Q-tips	protein bars	batteries (any size)
razors	mouthwash (small bottles)	small packages of cereal
eye drops	granola/cereal bars	small tissue packets
foot powder	deodorant	body powder
cookies	microwave foods	coffee packets/tea bags
shaving cream	wipes (small and large)	toilet paper
toothbrushes	toothpaste	bug spray
shampoo	conditioner	sugar-free items
hard candy	suntan lotion	feminine products
DVDs/CDs	used cell phones	computer games
	medical items (aspirin, cough syrup, band-aids)	
	X-Box/Playstation/Wii games	

For Your Information



On Mother's Day our congregation participated in The "Blankets Plus" program. This offering helps Church World Services provide blankets, tents, food and so much more to communities in need.

This year you, the members and friends of this Church donated \$754 to "Blankets Plus". In 2012, our donation was \$608. We were able to achieve an increase of \$146! Remember it was YOU who made this possible with your generosity!

Also, we would like to update you on a new total for our One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering. After tallying the children's banks, we have a new grand total of \$1388.58!

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

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16*

WATER SAFETY !!

Follow these safety tips whenever you are in, on or around water.



Make Water Safety Your Priority

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- **Never leave a young child unattended near water** and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved **life jackets** around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.
- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around **natural bodies of water** including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm, as well as diving skills.

Prevent Unsupervised Access to the Water

- Install and use barriers around your **home pool or hot tub**. Safety covers and pool alarms should be added as additional layers of protection.
- Ensure that pool barriers enclose the entire pool area, are at least 4-feet high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool. The latch should be high enough to be out of a small child's reach.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.
- Remove any structures that provide access to the pool, such as outdoor furniture, climbable trees, decorative walls and playground equipment.
- Keep toys that are not in use away from the pool and out of sight. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

Maintain Constant Supervision

- Actively supervise kids whenever around the water—even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at the beach—designate a responsible adult to supervise.
- Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.

Know What to Do in an Emergency

- If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in Red Cross **home pool safety**, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We are going to Laser Tag at Fireball Mountain at the end of July.
Contact Susan Gargano (732-604-3441) for a permission slip and waiver form



THANK YOU to all of the Sr. High members for the many ways they served God, Our Church and the Community this year: Making Cards for Soldier's Families, Sending Get Well Cards to Church Members, Visiting Nursing Homes, Serving the Harvest Dinner, Shopping and Wrapping Gifts for Needy Families and other projects.

It was our pleasure to be your leaders.

Susan Gargano & Roberta Kleban