

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

July/August 2015

“Pastoral Reflections on a Menu of Daily Choices” By Pastor Doug

I was recently at a local fast food restaurant looking at the menu. Normally I know what I want. But on that particular day I was overcome by all the variations and choices. Did I want a ¼ pound burger, a double burger, with or without cheese, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes? Did I want it with mushrooms, with peppers, or bacon? Or did I want one of several new salad offerings, or salad instead of the burger? Or did I want a fish sandwich instead? On and on the variations went. It was all so overwhelming. When I finally made up my mind and was ready to place my order the person taking my order then asked, “Will that be small, medium or large?” “Would you like extra cheese, French fries or onion rings?” Just when I thought I knew what I wanted I was confronted with still more choices.

It’s wonderful to have so many choices in life. Indeed our lives involve making many choices every day – and not just about what to eat on a fast food menu. If we choose to do one thing, then we have chosen not to use our time to do something else. If we choose to spend our money on something, then that money is not available to be used for something else.

Likewise, when we see things that in one way or another annoy, trouble, or make us uncomfortable, we make choices. We can choose to avoid those things, or we can choose to be a part of the solution and invest ourselves in addressing our concern about a particular thing.

Even our relationships with one another are about choices we make – choices that may communicate just how much we really value a relationship with one another. One couple of many decades was asked what the secret was to their marriage of well over 50 years. They responded by saying, we chose to work our problems out with each other along the way rather than walk away because we love each other, and love chose to work things out rather than quit. We have chosen to forgive each other and to accept each other for who the other is.

As with that couple of over 50 years, so it is in our walk with the Lord and with the church as the body of Christ. The seemingly little choices we make each day may serve to strengthen our ties to the Lord and the Church, or weaken our ties. Our choices may affirm that Jesus calls us to live in community and fellowship with one another as a community of faith, or that we value other things.

An old country preacher once said, “The Devil is voting against me and the Lord is voting for me, and I have the deciding ballot.” How true that is, for where we choose to spend our time, our energy, and our money may well indicate where we are casting our ballot. Moses said to the people in Deut. 30:19-20, “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” Later we read that Joshua, Moses’ successor, being aware of a number of temptations and choices before him and God’s people declared, “. . .as for me and my and my household we will serve the Lord.” (Josh. 24:15). What about you and me? What are our choices declaring as important and valued? It’s something to think about as we enter summer, and every season of life.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

We will commence our Summer Worship Services on **July 5, 2015 at 10:00 AM**. The services will be held at this time **through September 6, 2015**. There will be two informal services in the Family Life Center – on July 12, 2015 and August 9, 2015 at 10:00 AM with refreshments following the services. Child care will be available for all the services except July 5, 2015 and August 9, 2015.



JULY INFORMAL SERVICE



On **Sunday, July 12th**, join us in the FLC for an informal service at 10:00 am. Afterwards, please stay for our “Beach Party” – wear flip flops and a Hawaiian shirt! We will be having a barbecue. The Fellowship Committee will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks and we ask that everyone brings a dessert or summer snack to share! We will also be wishing Ashia the best as she prepares to leave for Seminary.

AUGUST INFORMAL SERVICE

On **Sunday, August 9th**, join us in the FLC for our second summer Informal Service at 10:00 am. Afterwards, please stay and visit at a Coffee Hour hosted by our Worship Committee.

CHILD CARE FOR SUMMER SERVICES

A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish to provide child care during the Worship Services for the summer months. We expect that if you wish to avail yourself of this service, you will also wish to take your turn. The sign-up sheet will be placed by the Child Care room. You don't need to have young children to enjoy working with them. Senior citizens and Junior and Senior High School students will also be welcome. The only requirement is that you enjoy children. Thank you for helping!



HOUSE OF HOPE



Saturday, July 18th
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Social Night
Fun and Games
All are invited!

YOUTH GROUPS



Blue Claws “Faith and Family Night” is **Tuesday, July 7th**. All are invited to join the Youth Groups on this event. We will be meeting in the church parking lot at 6:00 pm and will be purchasing tickets individually at the gate. Adults are \$10 and children are \$8. Please contact Ashia via e-mail at huelsena@kean.edu if you and/or your family plan on attending. Have a great summer!

SPECIAL OFFERING TO BE TAKEN ON JULY 12TH FOR PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) TO NEPAL

Sadly, the death toll from the April earthquake and aftershocks in Nepal has risen to above 7,300. More than 14,000 were injured and an estimated 2.8 million are without shelter. Priority needs are: shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, psychosocial support, food, non-food items and education. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to immediate needs through ACT Alliance. The recent appeal from ACT Alliance identifies assistance to 125,000 persons in eleven of the most severely affected districts. Needs assessments are ongoing and PDA is committed to the long-term response.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

A special offering will be taken on Sunday, July 12th to respond to this crisis. Please give generously as we strive to bring hope to those suffering in Nepal.

OUR MISSION PROJECT – HELPING EACH OTHER TO HELP OTHERS

We would like to thank Phyllis Miterotonda, Terry Idarola, Kindra Slater, Carol Farley, and the members of the Faithful Remnants for their hard work in making our first fundraising event a success. We had two tables at the latest Craft Fair, selling decorative items. Thanks to all who attended the Craft Fair and gave us your support. Our mission project raised \$241.25 for our session’s unified mission.



DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE BARGAINS AT THE MISSION PROJECT COMMITTEE'S TABLE AT THE CRAFT FAIR?

It's not too late to take advantage of fantastic prices on treasures and beautiful handmade items from the Faithful Remnants (our quilters).

The Committee will hold another sale on:

**SUNDAY, JULY 19th AFTER THE SERVICE
IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

(Remember...it's less than six months until Christmas!)

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who participated in our most recent fundraiser at Come2Mamas Restaurant. It was great to see so many of you there supporting our efforts.

The Fundraising Committee will be participating in BOSCOV'S Friends Helping Friends Event at the store's Toms River location (in Ocean County Mall) on October 20, 2015. We will be selling a shopping pass for \$5 which will buy you a 25% off discount, refreshments, entertainment and a chance to win prizes. The passes will be on sale soon so please look for us or our posters for additional information.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO BLANKET SUNDAY!



Thank you for your donations to Blanket Sunday. Your gifts totaled \$2,522.00 and have been forwarded to Church World Service. Those gifts included a specific designation for the purchase of a well which will most certainly make a tremendous impact for a community in need. Thank you for generously sharing God's love in a heartwarming and life changing way!

DEACONS

Summer will soon be here along with the, at times, unbearable heat. Stay cool, use sunscreen, and stay safe.



Thank you to our entire congregation for your continued donations to our food bank. The Board of Deacons is so grateful for your help in providing our community with food when the need arises and want to tell you how incredibly grateful the recipients are to receive your donations.