

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

June 2015

Milestones Are Not the Finish Line – Pastor’s Reflection



When I was growing up I looked forward to the day when I would graduate from high school. That day came, was celebrated, and went. Then, I was longing for the day when I would reach another milestone and graduate from college. That day came in time, was celebrated, and went. Then it was off to seminary and more was to be learned, as I longed for the day when I would graduate. Then, that long awaited day came, was celebrated, and went.

Along life’s journey there were other milestones that were prepared for, achieved, and celebrated. There was my engagement and marriage to Linda. Then, it was going through basic training with the U.S. Army and getting my commission as an officer. Later, it was preparing for parenthood and the birth of a child, and then the adoption of another child, and all the responsibilities that brought.

Each milestone in life marked the completion of something. However each milestone was the start of something else. High school graduation marked the start of college. College graduation marked the start of seminary training. Seminary graduation marked the start of a life in ministry.

Engagement led to marriage, which lead to a life-long partnership. The arrival of children has lead to a life-long journey of loving, caring for, supporting, guiding and being there for those children.

In similar fashion we can mark baptism and confirmation as milestones in our walk with the Lord through life. But like all milestones, these events are not just completion points in life to be celebrated. These events are also mile markers on our journey of faith. But these mile markers are not the end of our walk with the Lord. Rather they mark the launch of a growing relationship with the Lord – lived out in a worshipping community that fellowships and works to make God’s love known in the world.

When I was a long-distance runner competing in 30K road races, my mind celebrated the passing of each kilometer that was marked along the way. One kilometer is done. Twenty-nine kilometers left to go. As I counted off each kilometer, I realized that was not the finish line, but markers of the journey. When my body and spirit ached from the rigors of the grueling race, I had to tell myself at each marker, that the race was not over. I pushed on, and sometimes that took a lot of determination and perseverance. It was at times very tempting to say, “I quit” or “I don’t want to go any further.” But, those thoughts would not bring the joy of victory at having completed the race.

In our spiritual journey it can be very tempting to drift away from the commitments we make to the Lord and the spiritual community of faith we know as the Church. We may say to ourselves, we have reached some milestone in our baptism, our confirmation, our ordination as a Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, or Deacon and say we’ve crossed the finish line. But, have we really crossed the finish line set before us? St. Paul wrote: *“I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself... Of course...I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead, so I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize which is God’s call through Christ Jesus to the life above.”* (Phil. 3:12-14). As with Paul, so may it be for each of us, each and every day. Let’s not drop out, but keep running the race Christ has set before us.

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** worship services in the **Family Life Center: July 12th** and **August 9th** at **10:00 AM** with refreshments following the services. Child care will be available for all the services except August 9, 2015.



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/Senior High School students are also welcome. The only requirement is that you enjoy children. Thank you for helping!

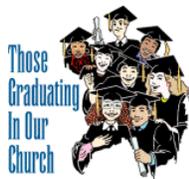


Youth Recognition

The last day of Sunday School for this year will be June 14th. We will be honoring our youth for their participation in our various programs on that day. More details to follow in your worship bulletin in the coming weeks.



ATTENTION GRADUATES!



Are you or someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate school or vo-tech this spring? If so, please let us know so we can share the news with your church family. Please include the name, where they're graduating from, and future plans (if known).

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups



The Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will be having a Lock In at the church on June 5th!

We will meet in the Family Life Center at 6:00 pm and pick up time will be June 6th at 9:00 am.

We will be having a barbeque, games, worship, bon fire, a movie and much, much more!

Make sure to mark your calendars for this end of the year event.

Thanks to all the kids, parents, and congregation for your continued support with the youth groups.

A Snapshot of What's Happening at BPC

Someone once said that “life is what happens when we have made other plans.” And I think we all know the truth in that statement. How often do we set out to do one thing when something else occurs forcing us to make new adjustments. We started the year out making major cuts in our church budget so that our income and expenditures would more closely match. But alas, a water line break near the street gave the church a major expense in repairing the line, along with the need to professionally thaw some frozen pipes in the Family Life Center. The needed repair to the side walk that resulted from the waterline break will hopefully be completed soon.

Recently the air compressor for our fire-suppression system died. The church was forced to replace that compressor with a new one. The water line and compressor repairs are two major unexpected expenses outside our budget so far this year.

Some people expressed concern about the church spending money on the new front doors. The purchase and installation of the new doors was covered by a designated gift from an anonymous donor who was aware of many problems with the old doors. The new doors are a great improvement in many ways beyond appearance. We are very thankful for our benefactor's gift. Another anonymous donor has stepped forward to cover the cost for purchase and installation of a new door to the church office. The new door when installed will match the new double doors at the front main entrance. Again we are grateful for another donor's generous spirit in helping us to make our church building an inviting place.

You may have notice flowers that have been planted around the church. We are thankful to Bob Towlen for that beautification of our grounds. Likewise we are thankful to Jane Steinhauser for the arrangements in the large urns by the entrance to the Family Life Center and the front of the church.

In other news, we are grateful and celebrate the confirmation of this year's confirmation class, for the many wonderful people who quietly go about cleaning the church pews, tending to repair and upkeep projects about the church, those who faithfully provide for our coffee hours, fellowship events, usher, produce and assemble our church newsletter, teach Sunday school, work with our youth groups and do so much more. Likewise, we are thankful for the faithful and quiet work of those of you who serve on the Session, the Deacons, the many committees of the church, and who faithfully gather here for worship, generously supporting the work of Jesus Christ by your faithful giving. Each of you, with God's help, are what makes Brick Presbyterian Church our “Spiritual Home at the Jersey Shore.”

There remain many great spiritual & fiscal challenges before us. But, together with God's help, we will not only manage but overcome these challenges.

Saturday, May 30th – Brick Presbyterian Church’s Third Vendor and Craft Show

On Saturday, May 30th, we will host over 50 vendors in our Family Life Center. This time, tables will be \$40 each and admission, as always, is free. If you have a craft to sell and wish to reserve a table, contact Melanie @ ChampNet411@yahoo.com . Please plan on coming out to this event, and watch for more info as we get closer to the date, or follow the link below.

<http://njvendors.com/events/counties-m-w/ocean/brick-nj-champ-craft-and-vendor-fairs/>

If you are a church committee or group wishing to reserve a table, please contact: George @ gverick@yahoo.com or call 848-333-3305.

Come2Mamas



We will be holding a restaurant fundraiser at **Come2Mamas Restaurant** on Brick Boulevard **Sunday, June 7 thru Saturday, June 13, 2015**. A flyer is available outside the Family Life Center and on the website. Two dining options are available: Sunday and Wednesday thru Saturday you are invited to enjoy a delicious dinner or, if you prefer, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday treat yourself to breakfast or lunch! 15% of your bill will be donated to BPC.

STREAM ENERGY ARE YOU READY FOR THE SUMMER?



The good news is if you haven't already switched your electric provider, **it's not too late**. The great news is now you can switch your natural gas provider as well. Regardless of your consumption, Stream Energy will donate **\$4.00 per month** for each **electric** customer and **\$1.50 per month** for each **natural gas** customer to our Building

Expansion Fund. All you have to do is pay your utility bill on time; it's as simple as that, no additional money out of your pocket. What could be easier? Just bring us your electric and/or gas bills and we'll do the rest, or log on to our account brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz. Look for our table, 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. You are invited to join our growing number of customers who are taking advantage of this opportunity and please don't switch your energy providers until you talk to us.

DEACONS



The Board of Deacons held their blood drive on May 13th. Thank you to everyone who donated – **31 units of blood** - and all who helped to make the drive a success. Please continue to make donations to our food bank in the coming months. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Just a reminder to everyone in the congregation to bring in your empty coffee cans for the Deacons to use when we deliver the chancel flowers every Sunday.

BPC TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

The goal of the BPC TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY is to provide rides to church for those among us who want to attend worship services but for some reason (illness, injury, or other inability), are no longer able to drive. This ministry currently has a need for one or more drivers to provide a ride to weekly worship for one of our faithful members. This member lives in the area of Princeton Avenue/Laurelton "Circle." If you are able to offer a ride on one or more Sundays a month, on an occasional basis, please call Joan Erickson at 732-833-2977, or send an email to jmerick112@yahoo.com, and you will be contacted with further details. Thank you and God bless!



***Thank you for your gifts to
One Great Hour of Sharing!***

Our donations to One Great Hour of Sharing in 2015 totaled \$2,002! Our gifts will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People as they work in different ways to help individuals and communities in need, both nationally and globally. Thank you for generously sharing God's love with our neighbors in need.

- The Stewardship and Mission Committee

Did you know...?

...that contributions to CWS Tools means that Church World Services will be available to help people around the world gain the resources and develop the know-how necessary to assist themselves and their families to build workable communities.

\$50 can provide 100 chicks, which will help families find their way from need to nourishment with a food source.

\$100 can provide tools for trades such as plumbing, carpentry and tailoring.

\$225 can provide gardening tools and materials to build three small vegetable beds.

CWS Tools... providing empowerment for people.



Excerpted from CWS global.org

By: Your Mission Committee

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Jersey Shore Animal Center, we would like to thank the congregation for your recent donations to help care for the animals. Much needed items from the center's wish list such as food, beds, towels, blankets, leashes and the like were collected in the Family Life Center over a two week period in conjunction with our annual Blessing of the Pets service held on May 2nd.

The Evangelism Committee will be meeting the 3rd Sunday of the month @ 10:15 am in classroom #1.

“Catch a Friend, Bring ‘Em In” Sunday will be the 3rd Sunday of the month.



The Prayer Team

The new Prayer Team recently held its first organizational meeting. This group is in place of the Shepherds Group who have for so many years watched over the flock of our church. The Prayer Team will be giving support to all the people on our prayer list who are members and friends in hospitals, nursing homes, recovering at home as well as those who are celebrating good fortune. Anyone may request prayers for any reason and know that their privacy will be maintained by all in the group. The power of prayer is a wonderful thing and has proven to work over and over again. Help us to make this a successful endeavor for all of us.



You may contact:

Debbie Weber by phone 732-814-1993 or email at flipper0714@hotmail.com

Arlene Liegl by phone 732-920-7965 or email at aliegl@comcast.net

Pastor Doug Chase by phone 732-477-0676 or email at dg.chase@yahoo.com

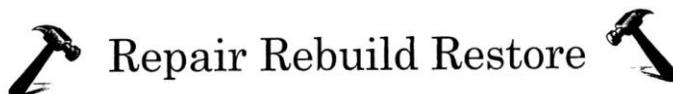
If anyone is interested in joining our team please contact any of us at the above numbers or emails.



Do you still **NEED** repairs to your **PRIMARY** home after Sandy?
If so, we can **HELP** you!

In partnership with the First Lady and the Hurricane Sandy NJ Relief Fund, **Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity** has additional funding to repair homes in 2015.

Please call our construction team at **732-228-7962 ext. 105** for further details
or stop by our office at **1201 Lakewood Road Toms River NJ.**



Insect Bites and Stings: First Aid

By Mayo Clinic Staff



Most reactions to insect bites and stings are mild, causing little more than redness, itching, stinging or minor swelling. Rarely, insect bites and stings, such as from a bee, a wasp, a hornet, a fire ant or a scorpion, can result in severe reactions. Some insects also carry disease, such as West Nile virus.

For mild reactions

To take care of an insect bite or sting that causes a mild reaction:

- Move to a safe area to avoid more bites or stings.
- If needed, remove the stinger.
- Wash the area with soap and water.
- Apply a cool compress. Use a cloth dampened with cold water or filled with ice. This helps reduce pain and swelling. If the injury is on an arm or leg, elevate it.
- Apply a cream, gel or lotion to the injured area. Use products containing ingredients such as hydrocortisone, pramoxine or lidocaine to help control pain. Use creams such as calamine lotion or those containing colloidal oatmeal or baking soda to help soothe itchy skin.
- Use over-the-counter medications. Try a pain reliever, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others), or an antihistamine (Benadryl, Chlor-Trimeton, others).

Usually, the signs and symptoms of a bite or sting disappear in a day or two. If you're concerned — even if your reaction is minor — call your doctor.

When to seek emergency care

Call 911 or your local emergency number if the injured person experiences:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the lips, eyelids or throat
- Dizziness, faintness or confusion
- Rapid heartbeat
- Hives
- Nausea, cramps or vomiting
- A scorpion sting and is a child

Take these actions immediately while waiting for medical help:

- Ask the person if he or she is carrying an epinephrine autoinjector (EpiPen, Auvi-Q, others) to treat an allergic attack.
- If the person says he or she needs to use an autoinjector, ask whether you should help inject the medication. This is usually done by pressing the autoinjector against the person's thigh and holding it in place for several seconds.
- Loosen tight clothing and cover the person with a blanket. Don't give him or her anything to drink.
- Turn the person on a side to prevent choking if he or she is vomiting or bleeding from the mouth.
- Begin CPR if the person shows no signs of circulation, such as breathing, coughing or movement.