

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

June 2016

Stories that Shape our Lives and Faith – A Pastoral Reflection

There were two secular stories that I was fond of as a little boy growing up. The first was actually a LP record called Sparky and the Train. It was a story about a little boy riding on a train with his father. The boy, Sparky, was a good listener, and he noticed things like the pattern of the train wheels going over the iron rails of the train tracks. Sparky noticed that the sound of the track was saying something to him, warning him that the train would derail and cause a great accident, if the train did not stop.

Sparky in that story had a difficult time persuading his father to ask the train conductor to stop the train, and check things out. After much nagging, he got his dad to get the conductor to agree to stop the train. Long story short, Sparky's excellent listening to the sound of the wheels going over the railroad tracks averted what would have been a disaster.

The other popular story I grew up with was that of The Little Train that Could. You may know that story. The little locomotive struggled to climb a steep hill, but kept saying to itself, "I think I can, I think I can." Finally the little train engine made the grade.

These two stories when coupled with some classic Bible stories may have messages for our faith and our time. The prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures were forever warning the people of faith to heed the call to return to faith and faithfulness, less their failure to repent and turn back to obey the Lord and God's command be their own undoing. In Ezekiel 12:2 the Lord speaks to the prophet saying of the people: "Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people." Sometimes I wonder if we take the faith too lightly in our time and fail to see or hear what is coming. Or maybe we are like the proud skipper of the Titanic who, in misplaced pride, failed to heed the dangers of hidden icebergs.

And, what if we do see and hear the dangers? Are we hesitant to act thinking we are only one person, and can only do so very little to make a difference? Edmund Burke said "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." When we feel like our faith and efforts won't make a difference, we may do well to remember how a little shepherd boy took out Goliath when the entire army of Israel froze in fear before the giant. Perhaps as David placed his confidence in the Lord, who empowered him to overcome prior lesser dangers to meet Goliath, we need to do likewise? Perhaps our chant could be "I think I can, I think I can, with God's help.

May the Lord help you to hear what you need to hear and give you the confidence of faith to meet that which challenges your life and faith.

May the Lord Grant you Discernment, Wisdom, Strength, Confidence and Guidance,
Pastor Doug

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

We will commence our Summer Worship Hours on July 3, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. The services will be held through September 4, 2016. There will be two informal worship services in the Family Life Center on July 10 and August 14 at 10:00 A.M. with refreshments following the services. Child care will be available for all the services except July 10 and August 14.



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!



Vacation Bible School

This summer we will be offering a VBS style program on the following Sunday mornings from 10-11 in the Family Life Center: July 17, July 24, July 31, and August 7. Our hope is that we can all keep connected to each other during the summer. The children will be able to spend some quality time with their Sunday School friends and the parents will be free to concentrate on worship. No registration is necessary and there is no fee. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please email donnaschlatter@comcast.net.



SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, June 12, 2016
Last Day of Sunday School
Youth Recognition
Teacher Recognition

Evangelism / Outreach

Don't forget to "Catch a Friend, Bring 'Em In"
on Sunday, June 19, 2016
It's Coffee Hour Sunday,
so invite a friend for coffee and fellowship!



Volunteer Village

On June 19 through June 25, 2016, nine members of the Brooklyn Michigan Presbyterian Church will be staying at our church and volunteering to help those in the Brick area in rebuilding houses damaged by Storm Sandy. The Host Site Committee at Brick Presbyterian Church will be hosting a meet and greet dinner on their arrival. The committee is looking for bottled water and snacks. Feel free to stop by during the early evening hours and say hello. Anyone interested in being part of the Host Committee contact Frank Miterotonda at 732 735-0826.

CWS Tools: Empowering Families, Strengthening Communities



Church World Service (CWS) has worked for seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. CWS affirms the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future by meeting them right where they are, and helping them to create solutions they can maintain – and build on.

Tools Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 19th. A special offering for CWS will be taken to provide items such as gardening tools and materials to build raised beds for vegetables, fishing boats, sewing machines and training on their use, and wells for water. When presented to an individual or a community these are just a sampling of the resources that spur improvement and provide hope for a better life.

Special Tools offering envelopes will be available in the pews on June 12th and in your bulletin on June 19th.

P.S. If you'd like to honor a special Dad or person in your life with a contribution to CWS Tools, look for the CWS Tools table in the narthex on Sunday, June 12th to obtain a gift card to share the news with that special person.

STREAM ENERGY

Winter, spring, summer or fall, Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church. Sign up now and you will not only see a savings yourself but will also be part of the donation made to our Church. **For additional information you can contact Patrice Law @ 732-779-7242 or patricealaw@gmail.com.**



Youth Group

The Youth Groups will be doing their Flamingo Flocking on June 5th, so if your house is chosen, don't be alarmed if you should hear some giggling on your lawn when your doorbell is rung and nobody is there but a flamingo that will be left on your lawn with a letter asking you to return the flamingo back to it's flock at the Brick Presbyterian Church with a donation to support our "Earn Your Wings Project"



We will also be collecting jars of nickels throughout the summer. Jars will be left in the Narthex for you to take home and fill up with nickels. Once the jars are filled you can bring it back to church and leave them in the Christian Ed office.

Once again the Youth Groups would like to thank the congregation for their continued support with our "Earn Your Wings Project" that allows us to buy Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in our community.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. Ephesians 4:4-6

Your Gifts Make a Difference

A Note From The Stewardship & Mission Committee

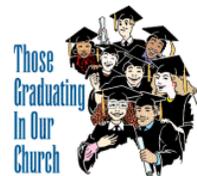


Through your donations to Special Offerings (including One Great Hour of Sharing & Christmas Joy), The Presbyterian Mission Agency reports that in 2015... "your efforts have assisted churches in New England as they dug out from record snowfall; placed Young Adult Volunteers in New York, Miami, Peru, and South Korea (among others); assisted in the education of Syrian refugee children; and made life-changing gifts to church workers and their families experiencing hardship. Thank you!"

Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God...
JAMES 1:17

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). Please send the information to newsletter@brickpresby.com .



Deacons Update

The Deacons held their annual **Blood Drive** on Wednesday, May 11th. Thank you to everyone who donated – 25 units were received! Also thanks to all who helped to make this drive a success.

Please continue to make donations to the **BPC Food Pantry**. Our food closet is almost depleted due to holiday basket distribution, and we are currently in need of all types of non-perishable foods. Some needed items include:

- Canned fish, such as tuna and salmon
- Canned meats, such as chicken and turkey
- Rice
- Canned vegetables
- Boxed pastas
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Oatmeal
- Dry cereals
- Canned fruit
- Canned soups
- Canned beans
- Peanut butter and other nut butters
- Dry or packaged milk



Please remember to save and bring in your **empty coffee cans** for the Deacons to use to carry their flowers for delivery every Sunday. Thank you!

Congratulations Confirmation Class



Confirmation Class Brick Presbyterian Church Welcomes the Confirmation Class of 2016 into full membership at a dinner on Saturday, May 14th when the class was examined by Session. The class was then confirmed upon profession of faith during worship on Sunday, May 15th. We are very grateful to Vic Erickson and Pastor Doug for their time and effort in preparing the class for this important step in their walk of faith. A big thank you to the Christian Education Committee for hosting a dinner in their honor on Saturday, May 14. We also thank the Coffee Hour Committee for continuing the celebration between services on Confirmation Sunday.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who contributed to the special offering for Blanket Sunday. As of May 12th, \$1,064.00 has been received for forwarding to Church World Service.

Our church family had the opportunity to purchase cards in memory or in honor of a special person as part of this year's Blanket Sunday offering.

"Church World Service Blankets ... comfort in times of crisis."