

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2016

“Driven by Hope – Driven by Hope in a Risen Christ”

Pastor Doug’s Reflections for Lent and Easter



What keeps someone playing the lottery week after week? Is it merely self-serving greed that longs for a big jackpot that will enrich one’s life, even though the odds of winning are astronomical? Or is it something else?

What is it that leads someone to keep doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result? Is it mere stubbornness? Or is it something else?

What kept Thomas Edison trying different things to use as a filament for the incandescent lightbulb after failing numerous times to find a material that worked? Was it a refusal to admit that he might be wrong? Or was it something else?

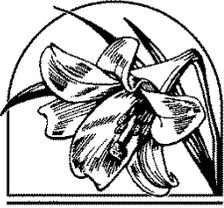
What led folk like the Wright brothers and Glenn Curtis to pursue building air craft, when no one had ever made or flown a heavier than air craft? Was it out of pure desire for fame? Or was it something else?

What kept Malala Yousafzai working for the rights of all young people male and female to have an education despite threats against their lives and great oppression? Was it sheer madness or was it something else?

I believe we humans are at some level a people who are driven by something called “hope.” Some hope to strike it rich in the lottery. Other people keep doing the same thing over and over again hoping for a different result. People like Edison keep trying and refuse to give up in the hope and belief that there is something that will work. Malala risked her life against tyrannical people in the hope and belief that their principals and lives would prevail over the darkness of hatred, death and ignorance.

We are ultimately creatures with an innate nature to be creatures of hope. As Christians we find that hope revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived for us, died for us, arose from death for us. If our ultimate hope truly is grounded in the life of Jesus, we have nothing to fear, when we choose to live as Jesus lived. We are free to live out a life that envisions relationships defined by love, grace, mercy and forgiveness. In Christ we dare to live lives that are not defined by hatred, fear, or greed—but rather defined by compassion, courage, and generosity. If our hope is in Christ Jesus, we can hope and dare to work for a world that reveals more of the kingdom of heaven on earth, not fearing what others may say or think or do to us. We can do this because Christ is our ultimate hope. We can do this because we no longer are hostage to death and its allies. We can do this, because it is not we who do it, but the risen Christ who is at work in and through us. And that gives us reason to sing Alleluia! Christ is Risen Today! Tomorrow! And forevermore!

Easter Flower Donations



The envelopes for flower donations can be found in the pews starting on February 28, 2016 and remaining until March 13, 2016. If you would like to donate an Easter flower, please do so during this time frame to ensure inclusion in the bulletin. Please print clearly on the envelope. Thank You!

Holy Week Services

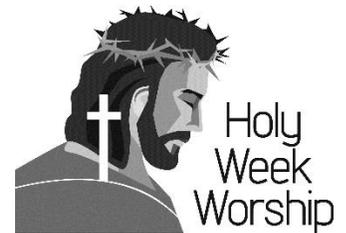
We hope you will come and join us for our services for this most holy week on the Christian calendar. We look forward to seeing you.

Palm Sunday - March 20th – 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. services

Holy Thursday - March 24th – 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday - March 25th – 7:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday - March 27th – 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. services



Also on Good Friday (March 25th):

You are invited to a prayer vigil
between 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm
in the sanctuary for prayer and reflection.

Scholarship Fund Breakfast



Scholarship Fund

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting a breakfast to raise funds for the Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship Fund on Sunday, March 6th at 10:00 am. The breakfast will be free of charge, but a head count of attendees would be helpful for planning purposes. Please look for an opportunity to sign up in the Narthex.

Evangelism/Outreach

Don't forget to "Catch a Friend, Bring 'Em in" on March 20th. It's coffee hour Sunday, so invite a friend for coffee and fellows



Invite a Friend to Church

“INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY”

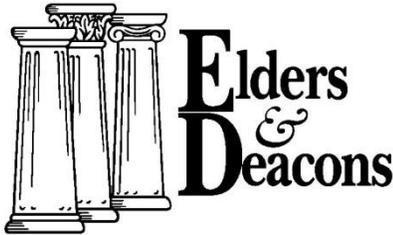
In times of inclement weather, especially during this Winter season, or for other adverse conditions, the congregation is reminded to tune in to the following radio stations to hear if the church is closed:

WOBM, 92.7 FM
The Hawk, 105.7 FM
The Point, 94.3 AM



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

New Church Officers Elected at Congregational Meeting



The Congregation elected the following people to serve as Ruling Elders on Session to the Class of 2019 at the Annual Meeting of our Congregation and Corporation: Karen Ellis, Walter Wynkoop, Marty Haluza, Richard Irwin and Frank Mizer. Each of these Ruling Elders will be serving a first term of three years.

The Congregation also re-elected the following people to serve a second three year term on the Board of Deacons in the Class of 2019: Joan Horan, Diane Lehnes and Jill Moberg. Elected to a first three year term in the Class of 2019 were: Ray Nalewicki and Erica Saullo. Wendy Schweis was elected to fill the vacancy created by Kimberly Baranowski's resignation when she moved to Florida. Wendy will be serving the remaining two years of that term in the Class of 2018.

The Ruling Elders and Deacons were ordained and/or installed during worship services on February 14th. We extend our congratulations, prayers, and support to these Ruling Elders and Deacons as they seek to follow Jesus Christ and lead us in the ways of our Lord.

Elected to Audit Church Financial Records

The Congregation elected the following people to serve as the Audit Committee for the financial records of the 2015 year: Mark Ellis, Ed Carlson, Jose "Figgy" Figueroa, Ken Robinson, and Bette Gibson. Each year the committee reports to the Session and Congregation its findings after examining the church's financial records. Their work seeks to assure the Session and Congregation that the church is following sound record keeping practices and assures us of reasonable accountability.

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service

We extend our gratitude for the hard work and faithful service of the following Ruling Elders who have retired from Session upon completing two, three year terms of service: William Chandler, George Erickson, Lori Evans, and Mike Kraynick. Likewise, we are very appreciative of the dedicated service given by Ken Robinson, retired from Session following the completion of his term.



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We extend our appreciation for the faithful service given by Kristen Ferris who is retiring from the Board of Deacons upon completion of two, three year terms in office and to Lynn Leonard who retires following a three year term of service.

We pray that as they carry out Christ's calling in other and new ways, they may know our appreciation as we say, "Well done, good and faithful servants of Jesus Christ."

Session Member Committee Assignments

At its stated meeting on February 16th the Session approved the following committee leadership and assignments:

- Chairperson for the Finance Committee: Richard Irwin;
- Co-chairpersons for the Stewardship and Mission Committee: Jean Reilly and Robin Mower with Marty Haluza as a committee member;
- Chairperson of the Worship Committee: Judy Gavan with Karen Ellis as a committee member;
- Chairperson of the Property Building and Grounds Committee: Chuck Cumella with Frank Mizer as a committee member;
- Co-chairpersons of the Fellowship Committee: Robert Blair and Craig Trautweiler;
- Chairperson of the Fund Raising Committee: Linda Kathenes;
- Chairperson of the Evangelism and Outreach Committee: Christy Tompkins;
- Chairperson of the Personnel Committee: Robert Auriemma Jr.

The Session also elected Judy Gavan as chairperson for the Standing Nominating Committee of the Congregation with Christy Tompkins as the Session's second member to the Committee. Additionally the Session elected Patrice Law as Clerk of Session and Bette Gibson as Assistant Clerk of Session, Mike Kraynick as Church Treasurer and Karen Ellis as Church Financial Secretary.



Fundraising

Italian Extravaganza Dinner

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Italian Extravaganza Dinner on Saturday, February 13th to support the Scholarship Fund. It was a wonderful combination of the Fellowship Committee, the Fundraising Committee and the Senior and Junior Youth Groups working together for a great cause. The food was amazing, the decorations were perfect and surely everyone had a fun time!

Chick-Fil-A

Thanks also to those who came out to our three Chick-fil-A fundraisers in December, January and February. The donations we earned support the Deacons' Fund and the work they do in our community.

Stream Energy

Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church if you sign up with them for savings on your gas and/or electric bills. See Patrice to find out how you can save money this winter!

Memorial Bricks

Once again the Fundraising Committee will be accepting orders for Memorial Bricks. If anyone is interested in ordering a Brick for our pathway in the Memorial Garden please pick up an order form on the table when you come into church or download one from the church website. Please fill it out completely and return it to the church office with check for either \$75.00 for a 4x8 or \$150.00 for an 8x8 including your contact info and we'll add your brick to our walkway. **Please return your order to the church no later than Easter Sunday March 27th.** This will be the last order placed this year.



Any questions please contact: George Erickson at: gverick@yahoo.com

Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship



Applications for the Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship are now available. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2016. If you are graduating from high school this June and planning to attend college or trade school in the fall of 2016 you are eligible to apply. Please contact Donna Schlatter for more information at 732-581-4911 or Donnaschlatter@comcast.net.

Junior High News

Once again the congregation picked the Super Bowl winner! \$602.00 was put into the donations for the Denver Broncos to win and \$239.15 was put into the Carolina Panthers to win. A total of \$841.15 was collected for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" and all donations will benefit the "Ocean County Hunger Relief Program". A big thank you to all who participated and donated for this worthy cause.



March is a busy month with Easter right around the corner. Please mark your calendar with the following dates:

March 6th - Youth Groups will help serve at the Scholarship Brunch in between services

March 13th - Making Palm Crosses in the FLC from 6:00 - 7:30pm

March 20th - Nursing Home Visit at Shorrock Gardens - time to be announced

March 27th - Bake Sale in between services on Easter Sunday

"Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19

Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to thank our departing members: Kim Baranowski, Lynn Leonard and Kristin Ferris for all their hard work and commitment to the Board. Lynn and Kristin have been an important part of the Deacons for 6 years. Kim's term has been cut short due to relocation. We will miss them at our meetings.

At this time we would like to welcome our newest members: Ray Nalewicki and Erica Saullo. We are also welcoming back Wendy Schweis to complete Kim's term. We look forward to working with them.

Thank you everyone for the wonderful donations to our food bank. Easter will be here at the end of the month and we have many requests for food baskets. We currently have an adequate supply of canned vegetables but if you want to make a donation and aren't really sure what we need, here are a few suggestions: cereal, coffee, tea, peanut butter, jelly, gravy, canned fruit, pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, tuna fish, jello, and macaroni and cheese. Please be assured, all food donations are greatly appreciated!!



Easter
Food
Baskets



Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters (receives 32% of funds raised)

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) - Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities (receives 36% of funds raised)

Self-Development of People (SDOP) - Partners with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice (receives 32% of funds raised)

Each gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering to be taken on March 20th serves to help change the lives of people in challenging situations in our own country and around the world. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Special offering envelopes will be available in the pews on March 13th and in your bulletin on March 20th. *Please give generously.*

- presbyterianmission.org/oghs



**A letter of thanks to our congregation
from Presbyterian Mission Agency...**

Throughout 2015, donations from our congregation were collected in a receptacle in the narthex to support the mission work of Mark Hare and Jenny Bent in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The sum of money collected was forwarded to the Presbyterian Mission Agency in early January. In response, we received a thank you letter from Presbyterian World Mission which read, in part,

...Thank you so much for sharing joy during this 'ordinary time,' for bringing unexpected, un-asked-for gifts like the magi, and for planting seeds which will bloom when springtime says the time is right. Thank you for your generosity, which allows our mission co-workers to continue their ministries, and which empowers so many people around the world to rejoice and be glad today, and every day, for the promise and the hope which the Good News brings. I would especially like to say thank you for the gift we received on January 22, 2016; \$170 for Mark Hare and Jenny Bent.

Thank you for sharing the extraordinary grace that is given to us each day, no matter how ordinary it seems...

Together in mission,
Elizabeth Little
Church Support Associate