

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2017



Traveling Two by Two – Wisdom for Today

Traveling in pairs has a rich biblical history. Those who entered the Ark that Noah had built and were spared the terror of the flood entered the Ark two by two. When Jesus sent his disciples out into the mission field he sent them out in pairs of two.

A Unitarian Pastor, **Robert Fulghum**, wrote his popular book, *Everything I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, pointed out that when we cross the street, it is important to hold hands. As a child when we went to summer camp the lifeguard always insisted that we use the buddy system when in the water, for safety sake.

Whether we are entering Noah's Ark, or being sent out by Jesus to carry out the work of our Lord, crossing the street, or swimming in the ocean – traveling in pairs is a good thing to do. Because we don't expect the unexpected, we often do not give consideration to the importance of traveling or being in the company of another. But that is precisely what makes being in the company of another so important. Unexpected things happen.

Someone can slip and fall going to or from a car. A person walking (*especially at night in a poorly lit area*) is more likely to fall or be victimized. The other day I encountered someone in town who felt the early warning signs of health event coming on. Fortunately, that person was with someone who could call on their cell phone for a first responder. In a matter of minutes police and an ambulance were there caring for the person.

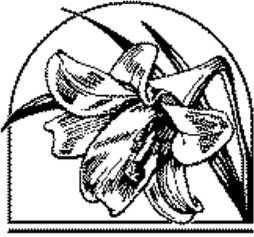
When you are leaving worship, a meeting, or some event at the church **keep an eye on one another**. Make sure no one has fallen, that everyone's car has started and that no one is left behind with a dead car battery, or heaven forbid discovers that they have locked their keys and cell phone in the car and are stranded outside a locked building.

All of this is common sense to all of us. But we live busy and distracted lives and are often on our cell phones texting or talking the minute we walk out the door catching up on other concerns, or what's next. In doing this, we sometimes aren't as aware of our surrounding and what is or isn't happening with others in the area.

As a child some of us sang in vacation Bible School, "***I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church together.***" Let this be **our motto**, both inside the building as well as outside the building in the parking lot and elsewhere.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Doug

Easter Flower Donations



The **Easter flower envelopes** will be in the pews **starting March 19th** and remain there until **April 2nd**. Anyone wishing to have their name in the bulletin should use the envelopes by April 2nd to give Pat time to include your name in the bulletin.

*Thank You,
The Worship Committee*

Ash Wednesday Service

We will be having an Ash Wednesday Service at **7:00pm on March 1st**.



Security Notice from PB&G:

When using the facility please ensure that all doors are locked and all lights are turned off as you leave the church. This will help to keep our utility bills low and ensure that our church is secure. **Thanks for helping!**

“INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY”

In times of inclement weather, especially during this upcoming 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 (*wobm.com*)
The Hawk, 105.7 FM (*1057TheHawk.com*)
The Point, 94.3 FM (*943ThePoint.com*)
NewsTalk Radio WOBM 1160 & 1310 AM (*wobm.com*)
New Jersey 101.5 (*NJ1015.com*)

For Sunday worship services, the earliest time for such closure announcements would normally be **after 7:30 AM**. You may also **check the Church Website** for weather related **closings and cancellations** by going to www.brickpresby.com.



Evangelism/Outreach

Don't forget to "Catch a Friend, Bring 'Em in" on March 19th.
It's coffee hour Sunday, so invite a friend for coffee and fellowship.



Holy Spirit Word Find

These words are used to talk about the Holy Spirit. Search for the words in the puzzle. They may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.

Advocate
Breath of God
Comforter
God Within Us

Helper
Holy Spirit
Trinity

J E S A D V O C A T E R
U S I B E L V E I G O E
D O G F O H T A E R B T
D T E H F O A T H R E R
Y A L I M L Y C R E R O
O T F H E Y A R C E N F
A N I D E S A E R T H M
A I T N S P O P N O G O
J D A I I I T L H E H C
O L Y S P R I E R I T I
N G O D W I T H I N U S
T H H O L T Y C A Y D E

Scholarship Applications



If you are **graduating high school in June 2017**, with plans to further your education in the fall of 2017, you are encouraged to apply for a *Florence M. Mallinson Scholarship*. Applications are available in the Sunday school office, the church office, or by emailing a request to Donnaschlatter@comcast.net.

.....**Deadline to apply is April 15, 2017.**



Dear Church Family,

Words cannot fully express our gratitude to you all for your ongoing prayers and many kindnesses during Steve's illness. Whether you sent cards, left messages, dropped off meals, were able to join us during visitation, or in celebrating Steve's life with Pastor Doug, your efforts strengthened and brought us both comfort at such a difficult and painful time.

We are truly blessed by being members of such a loving church.

Peace and love to you all,
Lynn Leonard and Matthew Logan



Dear Church Family,

A heartfelt thank you to my Brick Presbyterian family for all the prayers, cards, calls and well wishes!

Phyllis Miterotonda

GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS

The Board of Deacons would like to **thank** our departing members, **Tom Erickson, Sue Avazier,** and **Phil Wagner,** for their many years of dedicated service. A special heartfelt thank you goes to Tom for his leadership as our Moderator for the past several years. All will be missed greatly. We would also like to **welcome** our newest members, **Evelyn Carlson, Kevin Nagy,** and **Sofia Thalheimer.** We look forward to working with them.

We would like to extend a sincere note of thanks to the Girl Scout Troop that meets regularly at our church. The Troop recently generously donated to our Food Pantry. To our congregation, please continue to make donations to the **BPC Food Pantry.** Our inventory is low 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
- Cans/jars of spaghetti sauce
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Cans/jars of gravy
- Oatmeal
- Canned fruit
- Canned soups
- Canned beans
- Peanut butter and other nut butters
- Dry or packaged milk
- Coffee/tea



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.

Also, please continue to **remember our active military** with your generous donations. Thank you very much for all continued contributions to the missions supported by our church.



Officers for the 2017 Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons chose the following board members to lead it in 2017: Frank Miterotonda as Moderator; Teri Idarola-Harley as Vice-Moderator, and Joan Horan as Recording Secretary.

Come Join Us for a Meal Packaging Event



On **Sunday, April 2, 2017**, the Brick Clergy Association will again sponsor a ***Rise Against Hunger*** meal packaging event with plans to pack over 10,000 meals to be sent to those who need it. You are invited to join others in our community for this special interfaith event at the **Visitation Roman Catholic Church, 730 Lynwood Avenue, Brick from 2:00 – 4:00 PM**. There is no admission charge to participate. You are also welcome to make a voluntary donation at the door to help sponsor the meals which are being packed (29 cents per meal) and/or to bring nonperishable food items for a local Brick food pantry.

Rise Against Hunger's **mission is to end hunger in our lifetime** by providing good and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. To learn more, visit www.RiseAgainstHunger.org.

Come join our local interfaith hunger champions at this event as we work together to end hunger for everyone, everywhere.



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!

Youth Group

Thanks to the generous donations from our congregation the Youth Groups were able to raise a total of **\$651.40** to help the ***Ocean County Hunger Relief Program***. \$425.40 was put into the Atlanta Falcons soup pot and \$226.00 was put into the New England Patriots soup pot. Although we did not pick the winner this year, we are all winners in the fight to help stop hunger in Ocean County.

The Youth Groups also made a visit to Shorrock Gardens Nursing Facility on Feb. 12th spreading love by handing out Valentine Day cards and red carnations.

Junior High March Events:

March 5th - meeting in FLC at 5:30pm - for MOVIE NIGHT

March 19th - meeting in FLC from 6:00 - 7:30pm



“Playing with Fire”

Come to the Retreat

The **Point Pleasant Presbyterian Women** are hosting a **retreat at Brick Presbyterian Church** on Saturday, **March 25, 2017** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm., and they have invited anyone interested from our church to attend.

To register, fill out the form in the Narthex and return it to Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church, 701 Forman Ave., Point Pleasant, NJ 08742. Please enclose a check for **\$15.00** made out to **Presbyterian Women**. For additional information, call PPPC at 732-899-0587.

Church Ruling Elders Serving on Committees



Committees

The Session at its February stated meeting affirmed the appointment of the following people to serve our Lord and Church in these designated capacities: Clerk of Session, Patrice Law; Assistant Clerk of Session, Bette Gibson; Treasurer, Mike Kraynick; Financial Secretary, Karen Ellis. Richard Irwin was reappointed Chair of the Finance Committee and will, by church by-laws, serve as the chairperson of the corporation.

Other Session member committee appointments are as follows: Property, Building & Grounds – Chuck Cumella and Fred Ochs as co-chairpersons, with Frank Mizer as a member. Judy Gavan and Karen Ellis will chair the Worship committee. Christian Education will be co-chaired by Kindra Slater & Walter Wynkoop. Stewardship and Mission Committee will be lead by Jean Reilly and Vic Erickson as co-chairs and elder Marty Haluza as a member. The Evangelism and Outreach Committee will be co-chaired by Ed Carlsen and Lori Evans with Elder Christy Tompkins helping. The Fellowship Committee will be chaired by Craig Trautweiller with elder Marty Haluza helping out. The Fund-Raising Committee will be chaired by Linda Kathenes. The Personnel Committee will be chaired by Christy Tompkins.

Composition of the Standing Nominating Committee of the Congregation for 2017

This committee will be composed of the following people from the Session, Lori Evans and Christy Tompkins; from the Board of Deacons, Diane Lehnes; elected from the congregation at large: Sandy Alho, Phyllis Baker, Carol Boucher and Tom Fortier; and from the Christian education department, Merri Schick.

Mission Connections



An Update from Mark Hare & Jenny Bent

- Our Mission Co-Workers Serving in Haiti and the Dominican Republic -

The following are excerpts taken from the June 2016 newsletter written by Mark. The Presbyterian Mission Agency apologizes for the delay in the mailing of Mark's June letter. The change in staff roles and the upgrade of the PC(USA) website resulted in the delay in the processing and sending of letters.

"Friends,

It hardly seems possible that a whole year has gone by since Jenny, Keila, Annika and I moved here to our small rental house in Amesville, Ohio. So much has happened! We have visited new places and met so many new people. My rough calculations the other day revealed that we made presentations to at least 60 different organizations. Most of these were church-related, but we also presented to the annual International Agricultural Conference...

The year has gone fast and now we are in June, almost exactly one year after we arrived in 2015. Keila and Annika have finished their school year and with summer vacation Jenny and I have had a little time and space to begin reflecting on what all this has meant to us. What I want to share in this letter is one unique piece of this yearlong tempest that was not actually in the States. In January, I had the privilege of spending three weeks in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It was a crazy time but filled with so much hope and energy...

Monday, January 11, I flew to Port au Prince, Haiti, where I was met by a driver from MPP, the farmer organization with which I have been serving since 2004... Since 2012 Herve and I have been working together to provide three independent farmer organizations training and support as they work to establish yard gardening programs... Funding for our work came from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP).

During the next two weeks Herve and I and a team of six other Haitians visited a total of more than 50 families scattered through the mountains... Despite the long dry season that had begun one month too early, most of the families we visited were doing great work!

In each of the three regions we spent two intense days of wandering through the hills. On the third day, we gathered with the leaders of the respective organizations, the participants in the program and other invited guests. Together we celebrated the year with words, song, prayer and food... I shared a reflection on the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-9), reminding the participants that they were seeds sowed by the Holy Spirit with the expectation that they would produce in abundance, spreading the good news of yard gardening to their neighbors. Finally, in each celebration the leaders of the respective organizations gave their final words, sharing the larger vision of what the farmer organizations are all about - a fundamental transformation of all of Haitian society until the day that each and every person can live with dignity..."

Mark and his family have returned to the Dominican Republic to continue in mission work. Brick Presbyterian Church supports the ministry of Mark and Jenny through our financial gifts and through our prayers.