

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2012

Do The Things of God and Faith Matter to You???

Pastor Doug's Musing on a Web Posting

Someone recently posted the following on the web: "When you really matter to someone, that person will always be there for you. Make no excuses, no lies, no broken promises."

That is a good understanding of a true friend. I got to thinking, "I wonder what the Lord might think of any one of us? Would the Lord think that God really matters to us?" This may seem a silly question at first as the Lord is always faithful to the promises God makes. But when one considers the flip side of the question, am I or are any of us as faithful to the promises we make to God? Are we really there for God when God wants us? Well, that may pose some discomfort when we are honest with ourselves and with the Lord.

How easy for many of us claim to believe there is a God, even confess that we may believe in Jesus as Savior. But just what kind of a relationship do we have with the Lord? Is the relationship with the Lord and for that matter with the church as the body of Christ (as the Bible describes it) one of little consequence?

A former catholic nun once said there are those who claim Christianity, but who do not let it claim them. She said for them the church and the faith is nothing more than a check list where one may show up at Christmas or Easter because one likes the music and the pageantry, but otherwise defines their relationship to the Lord and the church as the body of Christ as the following: "hatch, match and dispatch." What she meant by that was the one shows up to make baptismal promises for a child, but then doesn't make a real effort to be present until it's time for wedding bells, and after that shows up for the funeral send off.

I have noted over the years that some do better than that. They go through church school until a confirmation. They then promise to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and to be a part of the church where ever they may be, but not long thereafter some of them become invisible. Fortunately, not everyone is like that.

Yet as we approach Lent, that time of spiritual renewal – a time of recommitting one's self to the Lord and the Body of Christ, the Church, I wonder what the Lord might think if God were the one who posted on internet of the soul: "When you really matter to someone, that person will always be there for you. No Excuses (or rationalized reasons). No Lies. No Broken Promises."

Jesus once said to some folk who thought of themselves as God's faithful in Matthew 7:21-22; "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Perhaps this is a good time for each of us to see how we each can be the friend of the Lord, the Lord who desires each of us. It's something to think about, if God and the Body of Christ, the Church, really matters to us. I hope to see you in church and helping the Body of Christ do things that make a difference and matter in human lives. Remember no one is too good, nor too bad to stay away, for the Lord wants the true friendship and partnership of each of us in doing God's will on earth.

House of Hope Cafe

Mark your calendars because the Grand Opening of our new coffee house, House of Hope Cafe, is Saturday March 17th from 7:00 - 10:00pm. To open our new coffee house, we are very pleased to welcome our special guests, the Michael J Maione Band. Michael is a truly blessed Singer, Songwriter, and Guitarist. His original songs are a testimony to his own salvation, his love and praise for our Lord and his unwaning desire to share the unconditional love he has found in Jesus Christ. To learn more about Michael visit www.michaeljmaione.com.



What better way to spend a Saturday night out, live music, refreshments and great fellowship. Admission and refreshments are free so come out, enjoy and share in the fellowship and praise of our Lord Jesus....

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN QUARTERLY GATHERING



...will be held in the Family Life Center on Wednesday, March 21, beginning at 12 Noon. Bring your own lunch for our fellowship time, dessert and beverage will be provided by Circle hostesses. The annual national/international mission Presbyterian Women support called the Birthday Offering will be received. Requested is a penny for each year of your life, but \$1 is always appreciated. The local mission selected for our March cash donation is the Ocean County Food Bank - the shortage is always deeper between holiday collections, so please be as generous as you can. March is the month to celebrate the "Gifts of Women" - part of the program will focus on that celebration. We hope ALL women members and friends of Brick Presbyterian will join us to meet, mingle, and share a meal with sisters in faith.

SCAMS

The Health Ministry Team will be holding a seminar on this topic on Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00pm. The presenters for this informative evening will be from the Brick Township Police Department; Chief Mils Bergquist & Det. Michael Bevacque. We hope you will be able to join us to learn more on how to protect yourself against a potential scam. If possible, please call the church office if you plan to attend by March 16th at 732-477-0676.





HOLY WEEK SERVICES

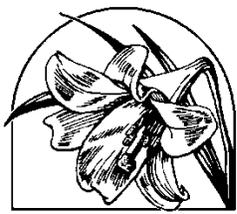
Palm Sunday, April 1st - 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 5th - 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 6th - 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 8th - 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes will be available in the pews for the Easter flower donations beginning Sunday, March 11th and continuing through until Sunday, March 25th.

“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
The Hawk, 105.7 FM
The Point, 94.3 FM
New Jersey, 101.5 FM



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

For Your Information



Brick Presbyterian Church is a member of Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ). This organization is committed to enabling the frail and elderly in our community to remain living independently in their homes. Their office serves an average of 1,342 clients living in Ocean County – from Forked River north to Point Pleasant Beach and Borough. They have about 1,100 caregiver volunteers who provide over 33,000 hours annually of free assistance including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visits and telephone calls, paperwork assistance and canine pet visitation.

DID YOU KNOW???

...that March 2 is World Day of Prayer?



How many times through the years have we heard ourselves saying “yes, I will pray for you and your situation”. Even though that heartfelt promise was made with a sincere desire to follow through, yet somehow the day would get away from us and our prayer for that person and the situation would not happen. It’s not that we didn’t want to pray or we didn’t mean it when we said it, as most of us have seen the power of prayer and know the blessings of prayer. It is not hard to actually pray but we seem to get caught up in the busy-ness of the day. Even though we have good intentions when we tell someone we will pray for them it might not always seem sincere. Maybe we should all try something different and pray together with that person. God invites us into God’s plan for others, and when we pray with others, and not just for others, we are able to truly experience God’s strength and his presence. On this World Day of Prayer, decide to pray with someone who needs God’s intervention today. (Excerpted from 2012 Presbyterian Yearbook)

“O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name... Seek the Lord and his strength: seek his strength continually.” Psalm 105

By your Stewardship and Mission Committee

Youth Group



The Youth Group had a great time preparing for the Souper Bowl of Caring, creating banners and decorating the Narthex. I would like to announce the winning team that was decided by the congregation from their donations. The Giants raised \$593.46, the Patriots raised \$140.80. Yeah for the Giants!

The Junior High also had a movie night and the Senior High met to discuss upcoming events and mission work.

Upcoming events for both Senior and Junior High are as scheduled:

March 11th - meeting in the Family Life Center at 1:30 to help put together food bags that will be distributed throughout the world.

March 25th - meeting in the Family Life Center at 6:00pm to make palm crosses.

April 1st - Nursing Home visit - time to be announced - to deliver palm crosses.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AWARDS

Applications for a Church Continuing Education Award are now available in the Christian Education Office. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2012. If you would like the application mailed to you, please contact me at christianeducation@brickpresby.com and I will be happy to send it out.



CROP HUNGER WALKS 2011 THANK YOU!



Thank you all for making last year's CROP Walks in Toms River and Point Pleasant another success! The 750 participants and sponsors raised \$21,000 to help Church World Service help the hungry around the world and the Interfaith Hospitality Network to help our homeless neighbors here at home. You DO make a difference!

A Tent City Update....

As the needs of those in Tent City have continued, so has the generosity of our congregation. Minister Steven Brigham has assured us that our continued donations of clothing (appropriate for the current season), blankets, and personal items are welcomed and put to good use. You may leave these items in the Deacons' Pantry with a note designating them for Tent City. The donated items are regularly delivered along with supplies of eggs and water.



The Tent City Committee is also serving as a liaison for groups that want to direct donations to Tent City. Committee members were delighted to deliver sweatshirts collected in a drive spearheaded by Courtney Evan's sorority at Ramapo College. We also want to add our special thanks to Karen Derrick and the generous donors at Ocean Lanes who provided dozens of boxes of canned goods which were delivered by Karen, Kathy Kraynick and members of our youth group.

We are thrilled to note that our church has received the \$1,000 grant check from the Presbyterian Hunger Program. We look forward to the opportunity to serve as our denomination's stewards of this gift as we explore additional ways of meeting the needs of our homeless brothers and sisters. Continue to hold us in prayer and feel free to join us at our next Tent City Committee meeting!

DEACONS



The Deacons would like to thank everyone so much for their past donations of food and money. You have given thousands of pounds of food and a great deal of money to this cause, and you should be proud of your accomplishments!! At this time we are collecting again for the Easter holiday. The food items that are collected are the main portion of our baskets and are delivered to local families who need assistance, and we could not prepare them without your continued support. Please keep this cause in mind as you take your weekly trip to the grocery store and look for more detailed information about our Easter food baskets in the weeks to follow.

The Health Ministry team thought that the following might be of interest to you !

3 Super Foods for a Long Life



Prevent dementia, clear your arteries, and live longer with this trio of great-for-you edibles: apples, pecans, and fish! That's right according to Dr. M. Oz and Dr. M. Roizen, you can get triple the anti-aging benefits when you make these 3 super foods staples in your diet:

- 1. Apples for a longer life.** Another reason to eat one each day: Well-washed apples are full of cell-protecting plant substances called polyphenols that increase life spans by 10 percent in the lab. Apples could help you live longer, too. Why? Polyphenols neutralize free radicals that would otherwise damage your DNA in ways that accelerate aging. **Stress less to protect your DNA from age-related damage.**
- 2. Eat fish to fight dementia.** Omega-3 fatty acids from salmon, trout, and canned light tuna help reverse brain changes triggered by a gene that increases dementia risk. Because 15 percent of humans carry the gene, it's a great reason to eat these good fats every day. **Do *this* 3 times a week to enhance memory and brain function.**
- 3. Pecans for clean-as-a-whistle arteries.** Turns out this tasty nut is rich in gamma-tocopherols, a type of vitamin E that works to keep lousy LDL cholesterol from clogging your arteries with plaque. Bad LDL levels fell 33 percent after people ate 3 ounces of pecans. At 600 calories, that's a lot of nuts. But you can still get benefits with less.



Health Alert Network



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

New Jersey Local Information Network & Communications System

Pertussis Outbreak, Ocean County

Reported cases of pertussis, or whooping cough, vary from year to year and tend to peak every 3-5 years. Ocean County is currently experiencing an outbreak of pertussis, predominantly in the northern part of the county at the present time. Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by *Bordetella pertussis*. It is important to remember that while pertussis is most often considered a young child's disease, it can occur at any age and can cause serious illness.

The disease starts like the common cold, with runny nose or congestion, sneezing, and maybe mild cough or fever. After 1-2 weeks, severe coughing can begin. Unlike the common cold, pertussis can become a series of coughing fits that continues for weeks. Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over, until the air is gone from the lungs and the person is forced to inhale with a loud "whooping" sound. In infants, the cough can be minimal or not even there.

The best way to prevent pertussis or minimize its effects is to get vaccinated. Pertussis vaccines are very safe and effective in protecting you from disease. While no vaccine is 100% effective, someone who becomes infected with pertussis and who is vaccinated usually experiences less severe illness. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a four-dose primary series of DTaP, administered at 2, 4, 6 and 15-18 months of age, followed by a fifth booster dose given at 4-6 years. The ACIP also offers the following recommendations regarding a booster vaccination for adolescents and adults, known as Tdap:

- Adolescents 11-18 years, preferably at the 11-12 year old check up.
- All healthcare personnel who have not yet received a dose of Tdap, regardless of age.
- All adults, including those over the age of 65, should receive Tdap for their next booster dose of tetanus containing vaccine, if they have not previously received it.
- All adults, including those over the age of 65, who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age and who have not received Tdap, should receive a single dose to protect against pertussis and reduce the likelihood of transmission.
- All adult who wants to be protected from pertussis should receive this booster.
- New mothers who have never received Tdap should get a dose as soon as possible after delivery.

The Ocean County Health Department continues to stress the importance of hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick. Hand washing is the single most important prevention method to avoid the spread of disease.

Residents with questions can all the Ocean County Health Department's pertussis information line at 732-341-9700 extension 7378 or send an email to pertussis@ochd.org. Information is also available via our website at www.ochd.org/pertussis.

Welcome to New and Returning Officers in the Class of 2015

The following people were elected by the congregation to serve as Ruling Elders on the Session at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation held in the Family Life Center on January 29th: Chuck Cumella, Kindra Slater and Craig Trautweiler (elected to first terms of service) and Mark Ellis, and Figgy Figueroa to second terms of office.



The congregation also elected at the same meeting the following people to serve as Deacons in the Class of 2015: Sherrie Cumella and Joan Erickson to first terms and Lorraine Johnson, Wendy Schweis and Tim Towlen to second terms of service. Paulette Auriemma was also elected to fill the remainder of a vacated office in the Class of 2013.

Each of the above named people were ordained and or installed into office during a service of worship on Sunday, February 12th. We extend to all these newly elected Ruling Elders and Deacons along with the others serving on our Session and Board of Deacons our prayers and support as they lead us in following Jesus Christ.

We Say Thank You to Retiring Church Officers

On January 29th the following Ruling Elders having completed their service on Session retired from active office: Alice Ennis, Marty Haluza and Lee Wagner. Each of these people have served our Lord and congregation with great faithfulness and love. We hold them in our prayers as they continue to worship and serve the Lord among us saying to each of them, Thank You! Well done good and faithful servants!

“Well done,
good and faithful
servant!”
Matthew 25:21, NIV



We also owe a great debt of gratitude to the following Deacons who retired from active service on the Board of Deacons as of January 29th: Wilma Poppe and Gerry White. These Deacons have served those in need, visited our members, and expressed our Lord's and our congregation's care to others with great love and faithfulness. To them we also say, Thank you! Well done good and faithful servants of our Lord and our church!

Session Committee Chairperson and Co-Chairpersons Announced

Patrice Law, Clerk of Session and Bette Gibson as Assistant Clerk of Session

Church Treasurer: Mike Kraynick Financial Secretary: Karen Ellis

Building Expansion Committee: Mark Ellis

Building Expansion Capital Campaign & Fund Raising: George Erickson

Evangelism & Outreach: Lori Evans

Fellowship Committee: Robert Blair, Jr.

Finance Committee: Figgy Figueroa

Personnel Committee: Robert Auriemma, Sr.

Property, Building and Grounds: Mark Ellis and Fred Ochs (co-chairs)

Stewardship & Mission: Susie Suter and Alice Ennis (co-chairs)

Worship Committee: Marilyn Bailey and Robert Auriemma, Jr. (co-chairs)

Standing Nominating Committee: Figgy Figueroa as Chairperson and Marilyn Bailey

Brick Clergy Association Sponsors Interfaith Event



The Brick Clergy Association will be sponsoring a Stop Hunger Now Event at Brick Presbyterian Church's Family Life Center from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday March 11th. Volunteers from various houses of worship and community volunteers will gather to assemble food nutrition packets for the Stop Hunger Now Program. This program provides emergency nutritional packages to those in need throughout the U.S.A. and in crisis areas around the world. This promises to be a wonderful way of showing our solidarity as an interfaith community in the battle to address hunger issues. It is also a great way for people from different faith communities to come together in a common cause and to get better acquainted with each other. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring non-perishable canned food items for use by local food pantries to help local families.

Fundraising News

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all of you who supported our February fundraiser at Tuscany's Restaurant. We hope you found this event an enjoyable way of supporting our church's mission as well as a time of fellowship with friends and church family. Our next restaurant fundraiser will be at **Cheeburger Cheeburger on Saturday the 24th of March from 12noon to 8pm.** This restaurant is located in the Kohl's/ShopRite shopping center in Brick and is known for a large variety of milkshakes as well as great food! Keep an eye out for the flyer at the church or on the website. Come on out and bring your friends hope to see you there.



Memorial Bricks

We hope you all stopped by the Memorial Garden and checked out our new walkway. Thanks to the PB&G committee our Memorial bricks have been installed and look great. It's not too late to order a brick just pick up an order form from the Narthex or the website and bring it to the church office with a check for your order and we'll add it to our walkway. We will be sending a new batch of orders in shortly so don't miss out.



Blue Claws - Save The Date



We hope you all will mark your calendars for our next Blue Claws fundraiser on **Sunday May 13th at 1:05 pm.** Keep an eye out in the Narthex and the church website for tickets and info. Remember tickets can be bought from us and exchanged for another date in the future so buy your Blue Claws tickets from us. We are also looking for volunteers for Friday August 10th to work the concession stands at the Blue Claws. Everyone who did this last year had a great time so see us and sign up.