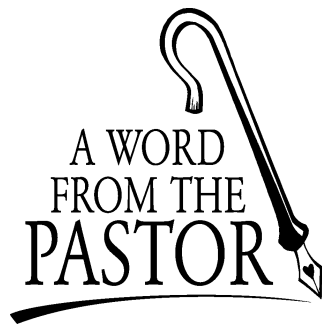


Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2013

Facing the Truth in Order to Know the Truth



In the movie, “A Few Good Men” Col. Nathan Jessep is on the witness stand before a military court being examined by Naval Lt. Kaffee. The exchange between the two officers goes like this: Jessep: *You want answers?* Kaffee: *I think I'm entitled to them.* Jessep: *You want answers?* Kaffee: *I want the truth!* Jessep: *You can't handle the truth! Son, we live in a world that has walls.....* Kaffee: *Did you order the code red?* Jessep: (quietly) *I did the job you sent me to do.* Kaffee: *Did you order the code red?* Jessep: *You're (expletive) right I did!!*

Truth telling is difficult. Facing the truth is never easy for any of us. That's apparent in the world of politics as politicians “spin” the numbers to make the numbers and the “facts” suit their purposes. It was distressingly evident in the world of pro sports where athletes will vehemently deny using performance enhancing substances in order to win, such as Lance Armstrong did, only to later be forced to face the truth they've denied to the public and perhaps even to themselves.

Someone confronted another person and once used the phrase, “according to my truth,” as if one can manufacture truth. But “truth,” real truth, is not something we can manufacture. Truth is truth. We may twist it – distort it – embellish it, but, we cannot manufacture it.

Truth is about reality and not the reality we imagine. Lent is a season for facing the truth about ourselves and our world – our relationships with the Lord and with one another. But coming clean with ourselves – owning the truth in a “make me feel good” culture is tough. How can we be honest about ourselves without that honesty crushing us to death?

There is only one way that I see, and that is in the Incarnate God who was nailed to a cross on Good Friday – the very God who in Christ looked down upon those who betrayed him and his executioners and said: “Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.” Our joy and our hope is in knowing that Jesus said that, even before those who nailed him to that cross could awake to say, “Perhaps we killed the wrong rabbi.”

As we face the truth about ourselves and our need for Jesus Christ who said: “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,” we then open ourselves the love and grace of God that transforms life and gives us the Kingdom of God. And, as I think of these things, I hear the words of the hymns, “Love Lifted Me...” and “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

WE WELCOME REV. JOHN & MARY POTTER

We welcome in partnership to our ministry the Rev. John Potter. He has volunteered to help on a limited basis with some of the pastoral calling needs of our church. John retired in 2012 after 21 years as stated supply pastor of the Holland Presbyterian Church in Holland Township (Milford) NJ. Until January 2005 he was also employed by the A.M. Best Company in Oldwick, NJ. Previously he had served as pastor of the Amwell First Presbyterian Church (Reaville) and the United First Presbyterian Church of Amwell (Larison's Corner) in Ringoes, NJ for fourteen years. John is a member of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and has served as Moderator as well as on several of its committees and task forces.



Pastor Potter graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1971. Pastor Potter has been married to the former Mary Raff since 1965. Mary, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, retired from Trenton Psychiatric Hospital in 2003. They reside in Ringoes, NJ and are the parents of three grown children, John, presently serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy with a Marine unit based in Okinawa; Susanna, an editor who lives in Brooklyn, NY; and Charles, a teacher who lives in Forest Hills, NY. A grandson, James Benjamin, was born in February 2009 to Charles and his wife, Helen.

Building Expansion Loan Has Been Paid Off!



“Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice in the Lord!” Those were the words of the Apostle Paul sent to the people of faith. Indeed, we have reason to rejoice at Brick Presbyterian Church, as you know. At the Annual Meeting of the congregation on January 27th, our Treasurer announced that our loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program of the PCUSA has been paid off thanks to the generous bequest from a friend of Brick Presbyterian Church, Ruth Duryea.

Indeed, our congregation is deeply grateful for Ruth's generous bequest, but also for a number of bequests from past members and friends of the church through the years that laid the financial base to undertake this project. Those bequests, coupled with the pledges and gifts of living donors made the construction and completion of the new Family Life Center possible.

We hope that you will be inspired by the faithful example of those who have remembered the church in their wills, and chose to name Brick Presbyterian Church as a beneficiary of your will, so the good work God is doing in our midst can be continued.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, March 24, 2013 - 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.
Palms or Palm Crosses will be distributed after both services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28, 2013 - 7 P.M.
Holy Communion will be served.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29, 2013 - 7 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31, 2013 - 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.
Come to church to celebrate the Risen Christ!

EASTER FLOWERS

The donation envelops for the Easter flowers will be placed in the pews on March 3, 10, and 17. This will give us time to type up the names for inclusion in the bulletins.

Coming to House of Hope in March!

March 16, 2013
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Free admission, Free refreshments,
Free fellowship, and plenty of Praises to God!

With **Dana Isles &
Face Down**



For more information about Dana Isles and Face Down, go to our website and look for
House of Hope > Upcoming Events

Fundraising News

Tuscany : Thank you to everyone who participated in our Deacon's Hurricane Relief Fund fundraiser at Tuscany's Restaurant!

Stream Energy : Our Stream Energy fundraiser is up and running. If you switch your energy provider through us you will not only save money but Stream Energy will donate **\$4.00 per month** to our building expansion fund. Just bring us your current electric bill and we'll do the rest or you can log on to the church's account @ brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz. Look for our table at the church or contact us through the website, or contact either Jeff Law (732-779-4499 or Lawjeffreyl@gmail.com)

or Patrice Law (732-779-7242) for more information. Come join the growing list of people who are saving money every month with Stream and **Please** don't switch your energy provider until you talk to us!



Ruby Tuesday: Keep an eye out on our Website or the church for our March fundraiser at Ruby Tuesday on Rt. 70 in Brick. This and our other fundraisers will be in support of the Deacons fund. Please come out and help us help the Deacons continue their great work.



Memorial Bricks: We will soon be accepting Memorial Brick orders for our walkway, please pickup an order form at the church and return it to the church office with a check for \$75.00 for a 4x8 or \$150.00 for a 8x8 and we'll add your brick to our walkway.

Blue Claws: We will soon be selling tickets for our annual Blue Claws fundraiser. This year's game will be on **Friday, July 26th** and will be a **firework's night**. Tickets will again be \$10, and early purchases will put you in a drawing for All-Star Game tickets being held this year at First Energy Park. As usual we need to sell 250 tickets to make this a very successful fundraiser so please help us out by selling some for us to your friends and co-workers. It will be a great night at First Energy Park!



Blue Claws Concession Stand: On **Friday, July 12th** we will once again be looking for **20 volunteers** to work at First Energy Park for a very generous donation. Please help us out, sign up early, mark it on your calendar to come out and help us raise money for our building expansion fund! Thank you!

“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 AM



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

Did You Know ?????

**One
great hour
of sharing**

...that we will join millions of Christians on March 24th to celebrate Palm Sunday and One Great hour of Sharing. This year's scriptural theme is found in 2nd Corinthians 9:8: God is able to provide you with every Blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything you may share Abundantly in every good work.

Over the years your gifts enabled the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People share joy experienced in Christ. Your donations have helped rebuild a fishing community destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, provided food and shelter to those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti, peace and hope to those touched by the tragic events in Tucson, Arizona, Aurora, Colorado and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and also to the destruction here, at our own beloved Jersey Shore by superstorm Sandy.

Since 1949, Presbyterians like you, have given generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Our offerings are felt abroad and more now than ever here at home! Our God knows that times are tough and that donating isn't always easy, but He also knows it works and that it blesses you and leaves you better in the end. And when times get tough, find encouragement through God's Word and keep reminding yourself of the good things to come!

The Stewardship and Mission Committee, challenge you to pray and give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing! Help bring joy to others, to God and to us.

*Excerpted from information received from the General Assembly
by your Stewardship and Mission Committee.*

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

THE COMBINED YOUTH GROUPS did an excellent job making Banners for the Souper Bowl of Caring. After working hard, they had a fun game of Football with Leader Tom, who was an awesome QB.

On SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - Everyone was a Winner!!!

The Youth Groups collected \$373.16 at THE BALTIMORE RAVENS table and \$267.94 at THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS table. The GRAND TOTAL OF DONATIONS was **\$641.10**. Thank you to all of our congregation members that were so generous in helping out a great cause.

Later that day, the Youth Groups helped create 15,000 food bags for Stop Hunger Now to feed families throughout the world! The Youth Groups also served food at the Harvest Dinner. Great job kids!

MARCH - JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH EVENTS



Sunday, March 2 @ 6pm – meeting in the FLC (Jr Hi's only)

Sunday, March 17 @ 6pm - Youth Group Meeting in the FLC. We will be making Palm Crosses. Afterwards, we will have snacks and games.

Sunday, March 24th - Visit to the Nursing Home to deliver Palm Crosses. (Time to be announced)

Please Join Us for these special events.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Youth Group Leaders.

Kathy Kraynick, Tom & Debbie Fortier (Jr Hi),
Susan Gargano & Roberta Kleban (Sr Hi)

**** NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ****

Continuing Education Awards

Application Letters for Continuing Education Awards will be available in both the church office and the Christian Education Office. You must be a senior graduating high school this June and planning to attend college or trade school in the fall. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Christianeducation@brickpresby.com



Session Member Committee Chairpersons and Appointments are as follows:

- Chair of Finance Committee: Jose Figueroa (Members: Mike Kraynick, Ken Robinson)
- Chair of Stewardship & Mission: Susie Suter
- Co-Chair of Worship: Marylin Bailey and Robert Auriemma, Jr.
- Chair of Christian Education: Kindra Slater
- Co-chair of Property Building & Grounds: Mark Ellis and Fred Ochs (A.C. Chuck Cumella, William Chandler, Craig Trautweiller)
- Co-chair of Fellowship: Robert Blair Jr. & Craig Trautweiler
- Chair of Fund Raising Committee: George Erickson
- Chair of Evangelism and Outreach: Lori Evans
- Chair of Personnel Robert Auriemma, Sr.

The Session also elected the following people to hold the positions here named for 2013:

- Clerk of Session – Elder Patrice Law
- Assistant Clerk of Session – Elder Bette Gibson
- Treasurer – Elder Mike Kraynick
- Financial Secretary – Karen Ellis

The composition of the Standing Nominating Committee of the Congregation currently is as follows:

From Session: Chairman, George Erickson and Marylin Bailey

From Board of Deacons: Lynn Leonard

From Congregation at Large: Mike Slater, Martin Haluza, Jane Steinhauser

From Christian Education: person to be named

From Music Ministry: person to be named

Board of Deacons Selected the following Officers for 2013:

Moderator: Tom Erickson

Vice Moderator: Kristin Ferris

Secretary: Wendy Schweis

GIVE THE GIFT OF FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED

As is our custom, the Deacons will be assembling food baskets during Palm Sunday weekend to be distributed to those in need in our community. Your gifts of canned goods, grocery items, and money are used to prepare the baskets. Please consider donating a few extra items in the coming weeks for this ministry. We also welcome your donations of hams and turkeys prior to March 25th. Meat donations may be dropped off at the church for storage in the freezer until assembly of the baskets takes place.



NEWS FROM TENT CITY



As the winter months have unfolded, the difficulties facing our brother and sisters in Tent City have continued. A new administration in Lakewood sought to renege on previous agreements reached between legal counsel for the Tent City residents and the Township, essentially attempting to force displacement of the dwellers without providing another alternative. Attorneys representing the Tent City dwellers quickly filed responses in the Ocean County Superior Court and the Tent City residents survived yet another crisis as the wheels move ever so slowly to provide meaningful housing relief.

Paperwork filed with the court highlighted the fact that, "Local churches, synagogues and other community organizations have taken steps to make the lives of the homeless safer and a bit more livable." Our congregation remains committed to providing regular supplies of eggs and water. In addition, we have faithfully delivered donations of groceries, clothing, bicycles, household goods and other items needed and useful for their survival.

Please continue to keep Tent City in your prayers and keep those donations coming! If you'd like to learn more or become a part of our committee, please join us at our next meeting on March 17th at 10:15 a.m. in the Family Life Center.

- Tent City Relief Committee

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY



Have you ever wondered, “Whatever happened to so-and-so? He or she used to sit near me in church every Sunday...?” Perhaps your neighbor in worship has not been attending services because he or she is no longer able to drive. Brick Presbyterian Church continues to seek drivers to provide rides to church for those who no longer drive. These folks want to attend worship services, but for some reason (illness, injury, or other inability), are not able to do so. It is our goal to provide transportation to church services for **all** members. A member may just need an occasional ride, or he/she may be in need of weekly transportation. **At this time, we are building our data-base of drivers who are willing to provide rides for members in need.** Your level of service in this ministry will depend on your availability and location. If you are interested in helping to build our transportation ministry, please call the church office, or contact Joan Erickson at transportation@brickpresby.com You will be contacted to obtain your availability for service. Wouldn't it be nice to see that familiar face again during worship and fellowship, in praise of the Lord?

An Update on New Eyes for the Needy

The Stewardship and Mission Committee has been collecting reusable old plastic or metal framed eyeglasses, nonprescription sunglasses, hearing aids, costume jewelry and old watches (even broken!) to help support New Eyes For The Needy, Inc. First organized in 1932, New Eyes for the Needy is a New Jersey based nonprofit volunteer organization that recycles the above items and uses them to provide the gift of sight to the poor all over the United States and throughout the world.



Thank you for supporting this worthy effort! We will continue to collect these items in 2013. Please drop them off in the collection box located in the Narthex. For more information, contact Patrice Law through the church office.

Protect Your Mind and Spirit



Chronic stress can rob you of health and happiness. By hindering your immune system response, stress makes you more susceptible to infection, disease, and other health conditions and can cause wrinkles and other visible signs of aging. Stress also causes spikes in blood pressure, which could cause premature aging of the cardiovascular system. To neutralize these damaging effects, try to identify what stresses you, and then develop strategies to help you cope with these situations. Start with these steps:

Leave job stress at the office. A study suggests work stress may be even more detrimental to your personal relationships than work exhaustion is. Close personal relationships help you avoid aging and stay healthy. Before you head home at the end of the day, take a few minutes to employ a stress reduction technique, such as meditation or deep breathing. Also, try taking the scenic route home from work. Research suggests that viewing natural scenery helps reduce tension.

Set meaningful life goals. Choose a few goals that will make your life feel more meaningful, and devise ways to achieve them. This can help boost your psychological well-being, which in turn may improve your health.

Slip some humor-packed pastimes into your weekly schedule. Whether you watch a funny movie, attend a comedy show, or just share good times with people you care about, be sure to set aside some time for age-reducing belly laughs. Research has credited laughter with not only the power to reduce stress but also the ability to relieve pain, improve immunity, and lower blood pressure.

From RealAge web site

More Projects Underway in 2013 at Church



& Grounds

At the request of the Property Building and Grounds Committee, Session approved for two big projects to take place in 2013. The first is the replacement of the roof over the Christian Education Building (two-story section of church). Some shingles were found to have been blown off during Sandy, leading to an inspection of the roof. It turns out the roofing is the original to that section of the building and over 25 years old. So it is now time to reshingle that roof.

The other big project will be the repainting of the sanctuary. This is long overdue and will be undertaken as soon as schedules can be worked out with the painters. It is anticipated that the painting can be done in a week's time between Sunday worship services.

Another project being worked on by the Committee is bringing computer technology into the Family Life Center. Fred Ochs and Mark Ellis have been running cable for this project. Craig Trautweiler has gotten a projection screen that is currently being used so we can project on to the platform things from projection equipment.

The Property Building and Grounds Committee also recently purchased and installed, with Session approval, a new church copier replacing the one that was worn out after over 1 million copies.

From Our Sunday School



The following is a paraphrase of The Lord's Prayer from Bonnie Luton's Sunday School Class. Thank you to Connor, Tyler, Bradley, Aiden, Drew, Jacob, Lauren and Shelby!

Dear Lord, who is loving, caring and kind – who gives us shelter, food, and all we need to survive. You are pure and sinless. Let your world be peaceful, everlasting and present today. Give us life. Forgive others what they have done to us and forgive us for what we have done to them. Help us to resist what is not good for us and the world and please forgive us when we do wrong. You are the home of our souls, the source of our lives and bring joy to our lives forever. Amen.

