

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2015

Lenten Musings from Pastor Doug

Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and renewal. This seeking of spiritual renewal finds expression in prayer and fasting. For many it is a time of giving up something, reminding us of the sacrifice of Jesus. This spiritual season began with Ash Wednesday. The faithful repented of their sin, receiving ashes on their foreheads. The ashes symbolize one's humbling of spirit in sorrow for all that offends the Lord. The faithful are reminded we are mortal, made from dust, and in death we return to dust. This reminds us that automobiles are not the only things that can be recalled by their Maker.

In the scriptures, the prophets often wore sackcloth (a material somewhat like that harsh, uncomfortable burlap that was once used to bag potatoes). In ancient times those mourning over their sins would wear sackcloth – beat their chest with their fists – and tear their garments. Some may think such practices are old fashioned and silly. I would agree, if what is done is nothing more than religious ritual. But, if these outward spiritual actions are really about shedding the spiritual fat in our lives that deadens us to profoundly deeper spiritual life, then there is real purpose.

Many people are fed up with the “it's all about me” attitudes that seem to prevail. There is a weariness with the world's divisiveness. This divisiveness is found in conflicted relationships at home, the “us verses them” that appears too common in politics, where real cooperation seems rare. The spiritual longing for justice and equality – the constant presence of fear, anxiety, and violence against others is evident everywhere; from silent epidemic domestic violence in homes – to Ferguson, MO – to the aggressive acts by Russia in the Ukraine – to the violent extremism of Isis. Surely humanity has drifted from its spiritual center in the Lord of all.

Perhaps the need for real repentance and spiritual renewal is most timely. The prophet declared in Joel 2:13 “Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” To see an end to our present calamity, we must start by a spiritual rending of the heart, mind, and soul.

True spiritual renewal transforms how we perceive and deal with our relationships. There must be nurtured in society an intolerance for intolerance – a respect for differences that embraces the right to disagree without being disagreeable – a unity that allows for diversity without demanding uniformity – a recognition that the rights of one party end when those rights infringe upon and/or deny the rights of another – and an affirmation that one does not build one's esteem or identity by trampling upon the esteem or identity of another. In a world where the temptation is to fit people individually or collectively into categorical boxes and assign labels must be carefully re-examined. Assigning labels to individuals or groups of people can make it too easy to mistakenly or even falsely presume that All Christians are ... That all Jews are.... That all adherents of Islam are.... that all law officers are.... When we catalogue people in such generalizations we begin a journey down a slippery path which makes it easy to dehumanize one another --make another a focal point of our fears and anxieties.

Lent may be a good time for us to find ourselves anew as we reconnect with the Source of our lives. The apostle wrote in Gal. 3:28-29 “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” May this lent help us all find that truth.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

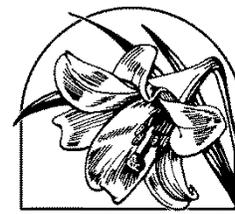


We hope you will come and join us for our services for this most holy week on the Christian calendar. We look forward to seeing you.

Palm Sunday – March 29, 2015 – 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services
Maundy Thursday – April 2, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Good Friday – April 3, 2015 – 7:00PM
Easter Sunday – April 5, 2015 – 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

The envelopes for the flower donations can be found in the pews starting on March 8, 2015 and remaining until March 22, 2015. If you would like to donate an Easter flower please do so during this time frame to ensure inclusion in the bulletin. Also please print clearly on the envelope. Thank You for your cooperation.



“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 Point, 94.3 FM
The Hawk, 105.7 FM

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

Save The Date

Sunday, March 22, 2015
12:15 PM
Family Life Center
Florence Mallinson Memorial Scholarship Dinner
The Youth Group will help serve and clean up.

You Are Invited to a Knitting Bee and Bears on a Mission Project

When?

Saturday, March 14th, Saturday, March 21st, Saturday, March 28th
At 9:30 AM

Where?

Rooms 1 and 2

Preemie hats and bears will go to Jersey Shore and Ocean Medical Centers.

All women and girls who knit and sew are invited! What to bring: scissors, baby yarn, red heart yarn for booties, size 3 and 5 knitting needles for hats and size 5 needles for booties.

Come and have fun while doing this mission project. Instructions will be given. If you can't make it but would like to help, see or call Lori Evans 732-829-8698.

2015 Standing Nominating Committee

The Standing Nominating Committee for the year 2015 is composed of the following people:

- From the Session: Judy Gavan (chair-person) and Lori Evans
- From the Congregation at Large: Mark Ellis, Tom Fortier, Kathy Kraynick, Tim Towlen
- From Christian Ed: Mike Kraynick, Jr.
- Waiting for Deacon & Music Ministry Reps



Please hold these people in your prayers as they seek to discern whom the Lord will have to serve in the vacancies that will be coming up on Session and Board of Deacons next year.

Welcome to a New Class of Ruling Elders and Deacons

On Sunday, February 8th our church ordained a new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons that were elected by the congregation to lead us in our journey of faith following Jesus Christ. We welcome to the Session Christy Tompkins who was ordained to her first term of office. We also welcome to the Session returning Ruling Elders: Chuck Cumella, Kindra Slater, Craig Trautweiller and Jean Reilly.

We welcome the following newly ordained persons to first terms on the Board of Deacons: Kimberly Baranowski, Teri Idarola-Harley, Katherine "Katie" Lanigan and Leroy Derrick. We also welcome back to the Board of Deacons previously ordained members Sherri Cumella and Joan Erickson.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

As new officers were elected, ordained, and installed to the Session and the Board of Deacons, so too, we want to express our deep gratitude for those who are rotating off the boards, having faithfully served Jesus Christ and our congregation. Rotating off the Session are Ruling Elders Mark Ellis and Jose “Figgy” Figueroa. Each have served a full two terms, and shall be missed from the Session.

Likewise, we say thank you to the following for their faithful service on the board of Deacons: Lorrie Johnson, Wendy Schweis and Tim Towlen. These three have each served two full terms and shall also be missed from the Board.



Session Committee Appointments and Assignments

The Session has confirmed the following church committee chairperson and assignments at its meeting on February 10, 2015:

- Chairperson of Finance Committee: Kenneth Robinson (committee members: Mike Kraynick)
- Co-Chairperson of Stewardship & Mission: Robin Mower & Jean Reilly
- Chairperson of Worship: Judy Gavan
- Chairperson of Christian Education: Kindra Slater
- Co-chairpersons of Property Building & Grounds: Chuck Cumella and Fred Ochs (Bill Chandler)
- Co-chairpersons of Fellowship: Robert Blair Jr. & Craig Trautweiler
- Co-chairpersons of Fund Raising Committee: George Erickson & Linda Kathenes
- Co-chairperson of Evangelism and Outreach: Lori Evans & Christy Tompkins
- Chairperson of Personnel: Robert Auriemma Jr.

DEACONS

The Board of Deacons wishes to thank our departing members: Tim Towlen, Wendy Schweis and Lorraine Johnson for all their hard work and commitment to the Board for these past 6 years. Their presence at our meetings will be missed.

At this time we would like to welcome our newest members: Kimberly Baranowski, Teri Idarola-Harley, Katherine “Katie” Lanigan and Leroy Derrick. We look forward to working with them.



Youth Group

Thanks to the support from the congregation we were able to raise \$534.83 during the Souper Bowl of Caring to support the Ocean County Food Bank. \$262.00 was donated to the Seahawks and \$272.83 was donated to the Patriots. We are once again on a winning streak for picking the super bowl winning team!

On March 1st at 2:00pm we will be participating in the Stop Hunger program that will be held in the Family Life Center to put together 10,000 food bags that will be distributed throughout the world to feed hungry families.

On March 19th at 6:00pm we will meet in our church parking lot to go to the Youth Night at Keswick.

On March 22nd at 12:00 we will be participating in the Scholarship Dinner, serving food, beverages, and cleaning up.

On March 22nd, immediately following the Scholarship Dinner, we will meet in the Family Life Center to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

On March 29th, time to be announced, we will be going to the Shorrock Nursing Center to distribute palm crosses to the residents.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

Fundraising News

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 a 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 Sunday March 29th. Any questions please contact George Erickson at gverick@yahoo.com

PENCIL IN THE DATE!

Saturday, May 30th for Brick Presbyterian Church's Third Vendor and Craft Show

On Saturday, May 30th, we will host over 50 vendors in our Family Life Center. This time, tables will be \$40 each and admission, as always, is free. If you have a craft to sell and wish to reserve a table, contact Melanie @ ChampNet411@yahoo.com. Please plan on coming out to this event, and watch for more info as we get closer to the date, or follow the link below.

<http://njvendors.com/events/counties-m-w/ocean/brick-nj-may-champ-network-craft-and-vendor-fair/>

If you are a church committee or group wishing to reserve a table, please contact: George @ gverick@yahoo.com or call 848-333-3305.

Please check the website or the church bulletin for other upcoming fundraising opportunities.

MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH !

American Cancer Society recommendations for colorectal cancer early detection

People at average risk The American Cancer Society believes that preventing colorectal cancer (and not just finding it early) should be a major reason for getting tested. Having polyps found and removed keeps some people from getting colorectal cancer. Tests that have the best chance of finding both polyps and cancer are preferred if these tests are available to you and you are willing to have them.



Beginning at age 50, both men and women at *average risk* for developing colorectal cancer should use one of the screening tests below:

Tests that find polyps and cancer - Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years*; Colonoscopy every 10 years; Double-contrast barium enema every 5 years*; CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years*

Tests that mainly find cancer - Guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) every year***; Fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year*** ;Stool DNA test (sDNA) every 3 years*

**Colonoscopy should be done if test results are positive.*

*** Highly-sensitive versions of these tests should be used with the take-home multiple sample method. An FOBT or FIT done during a digital rectal exam in the doctor's office is not adequate for screening.*

Is a rectal exam enough to screen for colorectal cancer?

In a digital rectal examination (DRE), a doctor examines your rectum with a lubricated, gloved finger. Although a DRE is often included as part of a routine physical exam, it is not recommended as a stand-alone test for colorectal cancer. This simple test, which is not usually painful, can detect masses in the anal canal or lower rectum. By itself, however, it is not a good test for detecting colorectal cancer because its reach is limited.

People at increased or high risk

If you are at an increased or high risk of colorectal cancer, you should begin colorectal cancer screening before age 50 and/or be screened more often. The following conditions make your risk higher than average: A personal history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps; A personal history of inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease); A strong family history of colorectal cancer or polyps; A known family history of a hereditary colorectal cancer syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer (HNPCC).