

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2011

A Matter of Fitness - Pastor Doug's Reflections

Many people are concerned with being physically fit. They watch what they eat, read the labels on food products in grocery stores, prefer eating fresh fruits and vegetables over processed foods. They watch calorie intake, avoid saturated fats and avoid too much fast food.

People concerned with fitness can be seen at the gym working out, outside riding bicycles, jogging or doing some other cardio-vascular exercise. These are good things to do for maintaining physical health.

Physically active people often are concerned with staying mentally fit. Such people realize that it is important to keep one's mind active. They engage in reading, working on crossword puzzles and taking classes to challenge their minds.

Yet, many people often neglect the maintenance of their spiritual fitness. They often do not read or study their Bibles on a daily bases or participate in Bible study groups at a house of worship. Spiritual fitness often requires more than nominal religious exercise, or praying to the Lord only in times of personal crisis in life. Spiritually fit folk normally do not limit worship of our Creator to Christmas and Easter, to baptisms, confirmation services, weddings and funerals.

People I have observed with the greatest spiritual fitness observe certain common religious practices that enable them to live in healthy relationships with others, and gives them the strength to both cope with and overcome life's challenges.

Spiritually fit people prayerfully read scripture on a daily basis. The practice brings familiarity to the biblical stories and the familiarity leads to discovering rich meaning and understanding. They read not to validate preconceived notions, but to let the Bible instruct their lives.

Spiritual fit people spend time with other believers in worship, singing God's praises, sharing in communal prayers, participating in the rites and sacraments of the faith. Such people approach worship first as a way of honoring the Source of their lives. From that approach they find the services taking on meaning and feeding their spirit in return.

Those who value spiritual fitness take time to be strengthened by daily devotions with booklets like These Days and Our Daily Bread or Guideposts to nurture the soul. They spend time in prayer seeking God's will, God's wisdom, and God's guidance.

Spiritual fitness improves with an active prayer life that first seeks to glorify God and seeks God's desires for one's life. My dad use to say that reading the Bible, spending time with devotional guides and quietly praying each morning gave him the strength to face each workday. He said something was missing when he did not attend worship services. Somehow these practices gave him strength for the pressures of the work week, and the challenges of raising a family. Are you taking the time you need to be spiritually fit?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



It is with much pleasure and joy, the Mission Committee presents to you Mark Hare – our missionary who is with the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti.

Mark is a member of a Presbyterian Church in Ohio. He has been a Presbyterian mission worker since 1997. He and his wife, Jenny, are the parents of a daughter, Keila Rosa.

As Mark relates to the people of Haiti, he looks to Jesus as his role model for building a common life with others.

Five years before the earthquake sent Haiti into crisis, Mark was already in the country helping Haitian farmers grow significant amounts of food on small plots of land around the town of Papaye – which is about 80 miles from the earthquake’s epicenter. With the help from the young members of the Farmer’s Movement of Papaye, Mark is able to address the critical food and water shortage issues in Haiti.

Please add Mark and his family to your prayer list. Also, please find Mark’s Blog Site: <http://markandjenny--pcusa.blogspot.com>.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MARCH GATHERING

...in Fellowship Hall on March 16th at 12 noon. All women members and friends are invited to this quarterly opportunity to meet and eat! Don’t forget to bring a brown bag lunch – beverage and dessert will be provided by Circle hostesses. The annual “Birthday Offering” (a penny for each year of your life – or \$1) will be received. This offering is always passed on through PW of Monmouth to the national organization for use for innovative mission projects here and abroad. In keeping with motions passed at our December gathering, all monies received at the “regular” March offering will be passed directly through our treasury and sent to “Providence House”, which is a local ongoing need. Any gift you may wish to pass on to that ministry is surely to be appreciated. We’ll also report on how much we were able to gather for December’s gift to Ocean County Food Bank. To round out the meeting, we will celebrate the “Gifts of Women” to honor women who contribute their time and talents to the larger church. Come on out – and bring a friend!



We're looking for some pictures!



We're trying to make our website more interesting to all by posting pictures of some of our groups and events. If you check our website, you'll now see a "Photos" tab with subcategories of some of the groups we currently have pictures for. If you have digital pictures of church activities that you think others would be interested in seeing, please submit them to webmaster@brickpresby.com for consideration as a possible website addition.

DID YOU KNOW???

...that for many people Ash Wednesday is a very somber day? Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of examination, penitence, and preparation for Easter. The words "Ash Wednesday" are derived from the Latin "Dies cenerum" meaning Day of Ashes. The word "Lent" is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word "Lenctum" meaning Spring (season). The first day of Lent is the 7th Wednesday before Easter. The ashes are a reminder that we will some day die and return to dust, that we have limited time in which to make life changes.



The image of the oil spill along the Gulf Coast was heartbreaking. Birds, sea creatures, marshlands and beaches were covered with oil. The livelihoods of individuals and families were washed away as the oil washed ashore. Finger pointing and debates as to who was responsible for this disaster began to flow as rapidly as the oil. A tragedy of this proportion is immeasurable with the damage done to God's creation, as well as to relationships and more. And it all grieves the heart of God.

If we take seriously our forty day Lenten journey, we may well see the marks of tragedies, broken relationships, and sinful disasters, large and small, all around us. Finger pointing and debates about responsibility for them could well ensue, all of which also will grieve the heart of God.

The words of the prophet Isaiah serve as an invitation to enter Lent with a clear direction: "If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil; if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:9-10)

As we gather as Christians on March 9, 2011 at 7 PM to witness the Ash Wednesday service, let us remember that Ash Wednesday and Lent are the prelude to the resurrection.

Excerpted from "Mission Year Book for Prayer and Study"

By your Mission Committee

DEACONS

The Deacons are very excited to be participating in a new activity which will allow us to **give back to our military**. We hope that you will be excited too, and can contribute some of the items that will be sent to show our support. **It's Easy!!** Just purchase any of the items from the following list and bring them into the church Narthex where you will find a collection basket. They will then be sorted and sent to service members. If you're looking for a way to honor and support our military, this is a great way to do it!



Most needed items:

Chapstick	wool socks (white or green)	small powdered drink mix
Q-tips	protein bars	batteries (any size)
Razors	mouthwash (small bottles)	small cereal boxes
Eye drops	granola/cereal bars	small tissue packages
Foot powder	deodorant	body powder
Cookies	microwave foods	coffee packets/tea bags
Shaving cream	wipes	toilet paper
Toothbrushes	toothpaste	bug spray
Shampoo	conditioner	sugar free items
Hard candy	suntan lotion	feminine products

Other wanted items:

DVD's
Cd's
Used cell phones
Computer games
X-box, Playstation, Wii games



Can you provide a ride?



A member of our congregation living in Leisure Village East, Lakewood is in need of a ride to/from the 11 a.m. Sunday services. If you can help, please contact deacons@brickpresby.com.

MEMORIAL BRICK SALE



The Fundraising Committee is continuing to take orders for our Memorial Brick sale. We are offering 2 sizes of bricks: 4x8” and 8x8”. The bricks will be engraved and used to line the edge of the walkway through the Memorial Garden. Order forms are available on the church website and in the Narthex. Please fill out an order form and return it to the Church in an envelope saying “Memorial Brick Fundraiser” with a check made out to Brick Presbyterian Church. Bricks sized at 4 x 8” are \$75.00, and 8 x 8” bricks are \$150.00. Any questions may be directed through the Church website’s fundraising link, or at Church. Look for our table with sample bricks in the Narthex. We would like to get as many orders as we can now to have the bricks ready for placement this spring.

FUNDRAISING EVENT



The fundraising committee would like to announce our next event. It will be another restaurant fundraiser at the **Friendly’s Restaurant** in Brick on **Thursday March 3rd** from **5:00 to 8:00 pm**. No flyers are needed for this one - just show up and place your order by 8:00 and **10%** of the evenings sales go to the Church’s Building Fund. The only stipulation is that **all orders must be in the Friendly’s computer between 5:00pm & 8:00pm**. We will receive 10% on the entire night’s proceeds - not just sales to Church members so please tell all friends and family to come out to Friendly’s for this event. And remember please don’t forget dessert after all this is Friendly’s! (We get 10% of that too!)

THANK YOU!



Thank you for making our Simko’s event a huge success! We raised \$873.85 thanks to the congregation’s tremendous support.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on
March 9th at 7:00 pm.



OFFICERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING



The following people were elected to the office of Elder to serve in the Class of 2014 on Session: Robert Auriemma Sr., and Marylin Bailey, each to a second term; Robert Auriemma Jr., Robert Blair Jr., and Susie Suter, each to a first term.

The following people were elected to the Board of Deacons, class of 2014: Joe Gibson and Jean Reilly, each to a second term; Tom Erickson, Susan Avazier, and George Schick, each to a first term as Deacons. We hold each of these newly elected elders and deacons in our prayers as they assume their responsibilities on behalf of our Lord and this congregation.

We also wish to express our gratitude for the service of retiring Session members and Deacons for their faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ and our congregation. Retiring from Session are Kenneth Smith and Susan Avazier, following three years of service. Retiring from the Board of Deacons are Lorrie Haluza, Lori Kearns and Sally Schoeneick after six years of service. We thank the Lord and these people for all that they have done for our Lord and congregation.

"Well done,
good and faithful
servant!"

Matthew 25:21, NIV



AUDIT COMMITTEE ELECTED

The congregation elected the following people to serve as the Audit Committee for the audit of the 2010 fiscal records: Jose "Figgy" Figueroa, Bette Gibson and Mark Ellis.

ELECTED TO SERVE AT LARGE ON STANDING NOMINATING COMMITTEE



The congregation elected Jane Steinhauser and Bill Pfiel to serve on the Standing Nominating Committee for the 2010 church year. Others will be selected by other groups in the church and their names will be made public once the full Committee has been assembled.

Youth Group

The Souper Bowl of Caring was a great success. With the generous donations from the congregation, we were able to raise a total of \$428.70 to support the Ocean County Hunger Relief Program. You can view some pictures on the church website.

Mark your calendars with the upcoming events we have planned.

March 6th – Meeting at 6:00pm
March 20th – Meeting at 6:00pm
April 10th – Meeting at 6:00pm (make palm crosses)
April 17th – Nursing Home Visit (deliver palm crosses)



The Jr. High Camp Johnsonburg Retreat is scheduled for May 20 -22.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

Results for the 2010 CROP Hunger Walk are In



Over 850 participants from 40 different Churches, schools, Temples, Mosques and clubs in the Toms River and Point Pleasant walks raised approximately \$25,895.

Hungry people will be fed, homeless people will be sheltered, sick people will be ministered to and hope will be restored for many.

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped!

“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.

Family Sunday



Family Sunday

On the third Sunday of each month we will be having Family Sunday. All children will proceed directly to the Sanctuary with their parents. Grades 6th, 7th, and 8th will remain in the Sanctuary for the entire service. Grades Pre-K through 5th will exit the Sanctuary as a group. On the other Sundays we will still begin downstairs with the Children's Church. The purpose for this change has many folds. Since many of our teachers and staff are involved in several different capacities on Sunday mornings this will allow for them to meet all of their commitments without compromising our Church School program. The music department is working closely with the Christian Education committee to have all of the musical ensembles involving students and teachers be present in worship on the third Sunday. By combining all of these on one Sunday no child or teacher will ever have to miss out on something that they feel strongly being a part of. This will also give us the ability to plan and host special programs for the children on these Sundays. Perhaps most importantly it will afford us all one Sunday a month to worship alongside our children. To teach them by example, to encourage their participation, and to share the Word and love of God as a family. If you cannot attend church service on one of these Sundays there will be plenty of adults to accompany your child to the Sanctuary in your absence. The CE committee and the music department are extremely excited about this addition to our worship schedule. It is allowing for new possibilities and alleviating some scheduling conflicts we have been encountering. Your support of this venture would be greatly appreciated.

Church School Children Saving For a Brick

Each week at the Children's Church downstairs in Fellowship Hall we will have a coin collection separate from the regular offering envelopes. We are hoping to save enough spare change to purchase a brick for the building expansion and designate it from the Church School children. Any amount of support would be greatly appreciated.





Fourth and Fifth Grade Retreat

FYI: 4th and 5th grade retreat at Camp Johnsonburg is scheduled for June 3rd & 4th. For more info, please contact christianeducation@brickpresby.com.

Continuing Education Awards

Application letters for Brick Presbyterian Church's Continuing Education awards are available for pick up in both the main office and the Sunday School office. All details and criteria are explained in the application letter. If you would like the application mailed to you or if you have questions, please contact christianeducation@brickpresby.com.



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes will be available in the pews for the Easter flower donations beginning March 20, 2011 and continuing through until April 10, 2011.

Stocking your First Aid Kit



To be prepared for an emergency is it recommended that you have an emergency kit. The following is the American Red Cross recommendations on what to stock in your first aid kit. Remember the Boy Scout motto – ***Be Prepared!***

- 2 absorbent compress dressings (5x9 inches)
- 25 adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- 1 adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)
- 5 antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram)
- 5 antiseptic wipe packets
- 2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)
- 1 blanket (space blanket)
- 1 breathing barrier (with one-way valve)
- 1 instant cold compress
- 2 pair of non-latex gloves (size: large)
- 3 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each)
- First-aid scissors
- 1 roller bandage (3 inches wide)
- 1 roller bandage (4 inches wide)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (3x3 inches)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (4x4inches)
- Oral thermometer(non-mercury/non-glass)
- 2 triangular bandages
- Tweezers
- First aid instruction booklet

In addition, if you have sensitive skin or an allergy, keep this in mind when purchasing first –aid tape. For sensitive skin, you may want to get tape that does not have a strong adhesive.

Antibacterial ointment that will perform as many healing functions as possible is a good choice.

Remember, no hydrogen peroxide. Instead add prepackaged cleansing towelettes to your first aid kit in case clean water is not available to clean the wound. Taking care of the healthy skin around a wound is very important too, so consider a small tube of fragrance-free lotion. And for pain relief, consider adding aspirin or ibuprophen.

If someone in your household is a diabetic, you may also want to make sure that the kit contains a few basic items for blood sugar emergencies such as glucagon.