

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

May 2015

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## Post-Easter Ebb and Flow; A Reflection from Pastor Doug

It has been nice these last few weeks to see more sunny days than cloudy, cold days. We've rejoiced as our lawns began to awake from the sleep of winter, returning to fresh green hues. There's something special about seeing the daffodils blooming, the forsythia in full radiant bud, seeing orange breasted robins hopping along our lawns, and listening to the early morning song birds, that lifts the human spirit. The walks outside after work, enjoying the sun light of longer days – the sounds of kids cheering on athletic fields – and sitting on our patios without full winter wrappings seems so liberating.

Oh how we can relate to Jesus' disciples' shift from the despair of Good Friday to the hope and joy of Easter when the Risen Lord spoke to Mary outside an empty tomb, and in excitement she went running to tell the other disciples. Likewise, we can relate to the two disciples who encountered Jesus on the way to Emmaus, who said to one another what a warm excitement they felt when they realized Jesus was with them.

But, as the days went by afterward life went back to "normal." Peter spoke about going back to the fishing boat and the others did likewise. The spiritual excitement that filled church pews on Easter Sunday didn't last long, as church pews were only half as full of people the next week. As the first disciples went back to their old routines, many of us went back to our routines. The excitement of spring flowers and greening lawns became the humdrum of allergies, leaf raking and the mowing of lawns, etc.

But, in the ebb and flow of those events in the disciples' lives, something else finally got their attention on the Day of Pentecost. The fleeting joy of Easter became more than a warm feeling, a moment of unsurpassed surprise and hope. On the Day of Pentecost, the God they knew in the Risen Christ became their life energy and motivator. When the Holy Spirit came upon them, the disciples had a spiritual energy and real commitment to go and be Christ's ambassadors in the world – to do Christ's work of proclaiming God's love in word and deed to a longing world.

When we let the Holy Spirit fill us, that spirit can be our driving force in life that moves and gives us an enthusiastic commitment to worship as we did on Easter – to a more energetic commitment to be Christ's servant people and messengers of God's love, forgiveness and grace. It is the Spirit that transforms our belief in a Risen Christ into a grateful commitment of worship and service. And this is not burdensome, for we find that it is in the loving that we are loved. It's in the forgiving that we are forgiven, in the giving that we receive. This was well illustrated when I was talking with someone once that was doing an amazing amount of volunteer work helping people who were not family or personal friends. I asked, "How is it that you give so much time and energy helping people and working in the church?" The reply was, "Pastor, I get so much more back from those I help, than I think I give to them. It's not monetary or anything like that. It's in the things I find in their gratitude, in the things those I help teach me without knowing it. It's in the meaning and purpose they give my life. In those I help and serve, I see the face of Jesus. And God blesses me."

I found what that person said to be so true in my ministry. It's the power of God's Spirit that transforms us from believing in Jesus Christ to living for Jesus Christ and being a caring community of faith. As the Risen Christ once said to his disciples, so the Risen Lord says to you and me, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

## Blessing of the Pets

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.*



Our God made these precious animals, great and small, and we would like to invite all who have pets to the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 10:00 am in the Memorial Garden. Please make sure that your dog is on a leash and your cat is in a carrier. Turtles, rabbits and goldfish are also welcome. We will have special treats for our little friends.

We are also asking for some donations for the Jersey Shore Animal Shelter, such as clean old towels, treats, dog and cat toys, and clean old blankets. Please pick up a "Spring Wish List" in the Narthex, in the Family Life Center, or on our website on the Events Tab. Thank you for bringing these donations!

## PENTECOST



Wear Red for Pentecost

One of the ways we as Christians observe Pentecost Sunday is by wearing the color red, this signifies the "fiery tongue" referred to in Acts 2:3. This year Pentecost Sunday is May 24. We ask that you mark your calendars and wear red on May 24.

## Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone for their donations to our food bank. Because of your generosity 25 food baskets were distributed to help people in our community.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Blood Drive to be held on Wednesday, May 13th from 4-8pm in the Family Life Center. Please come out and support this worthwhile cause as we supply our local blood bank with the resource necessary to save lives!! Hope to see you there.



## ATTENTION GRADUATES!



Are you or someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate school or vo-tech this spring? If so, please let us know so we can share the news with your church family. Please include the name, where they're graduating from, and future plans (if known).

## Fundraising News



### Memorial Bricks:

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for a Memorial Brick. The orders have been placed and will be in soon.

### **PENCIL IN THE DATE!**

#### **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> for Brick Presbyterian Church's Third Vendor and Craft Show**

On Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 at [gverick@yahoo.com](mailto:gverick@yahoo.com) or call 848-333-3305.

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

### **Information Regarding Church Organist**



The Session via the Personnel Committee, along with our music staff of Christy Tompkins and Ed Murphy, and our Pastor Doug Chase, have begun an immediate search process to find a new Church Organist and Hand Bell Choir director. We have a temporary arrangement with Faith Kline, who has substituted for us before, to play for a number of Sundays. Our praise team will continue to be an important part of our music ministry during this transition time. Please be patient, as finding a church organist and hand bell director may take time. Please pray for our church music ministry and organist search team.

## Wishing Bob Mahns Our Best



As many of you know Bob Mahns has been our beloved Organist and Hand Bell Choir Director for 15 years. During his ministry of Instrumental Music, he has blessed us with his special musical talents in the worship of the Lord. It is because of Bob's vision and energy, in no small way, that we were able to begin a hand bell choir, get hand bells and hand chimes, train and launch a bell choir that we all love to hear in worship. Bob's faithfulness to the Lord and to our music ministry, his love for God's people, along with his wonderful wit has been a joyful blessing.

April 12<sup>th</sup> was Bob's last Sunday with us, as he was offered and accepted a position with the Reformed Church in Whiting where he could share the position of organist with his talented wife, Gwynne. We who know Bob and Gwynne, know how much it means for them to be able to play together once again. Bob was honored by our congregation on April 12<sup>th</sup> by several presentations from our congregation and was awarded both a title and plaque naming him as Minister of Instrumental Music Emeritus. While we shall miss Bob dearly, we are happy for both he and Gwynne, and wish them God's best in the new position they will have together. We know that as Bob has been a blessing to us, he will now be a blessing to others.



To all my friends and colleagues at Brick Presbyterian Church:

I want you all to know that I am truly leaving here with mixed feelings; happy about the unexpected gift of being able to share in a music ministry with my wife again, but sad to be leaving after fifteen good years of music ministry here. I have learned a great deal and worked with many people with whom I am sure I will remain friends for a long time. I can only hope and pray that God will continue to give me such rewarding experiences and supportive friends in the new setting.

Thank you so much for making my time at BPC a truly enjoyable one. Be assured of my continued interest in the life and work of this church.

Yours sincerely,

*W. Robert Mahns*

## Youth Recognition

The last day of Sunday School for this year will be June 14th. We will also be honoring our youth for their participation in our various programs on that day. More details to follow in your worship bulletin in the coming weeks.



## 2015 Florence M. Mallinson Scholarship Dinner



The Christian Education Committee is delighted to announce that the dinner was a success again this year. The food and fellowship were top notch. The donations of desserts were greatly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by all. On behalf of the committee and future scholarship recipients, we graciously thank you for your generosity and support of this event.

## DID YOU KNOW?



...that one of the missions we Presbyterians support is Blanket Sunday. Contributions to CWS blankets mean that Church World Service will be ready to help families from around the world recover from disasters and displacement, and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.

CWS helps to provide primary healthcare for displaced and families in need or in crisis. In places as far-flung as Pakistan, Sudan and Nicaragua, CWS gives comfort and care to moms and babies, and helps children get the nutrition they need to grow up healthy and strong.

Here in the U.S., CWS blankets provide comfort in many communities hit by disaster, and in agencies or shelters assisting those experiencing difficult times.

Close to home...

There were 11,400 CWS blankets sent to relief agencies and churches in New Jersey, New York, West Virginia and Pennsylvania for people impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Also, more than 1,200 people in affected communities attended CWS disaster-recovery workshops.

A blanket can be a comfort in times of crisis. Whatever else a blanket can be, it is most certainly a sign of generosity, a sign of loving care and a real sign of compassion.

*Excerpted from CWS global.org...  
By your Mission Committee*



**Could You Benefit from  
Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity's (NOHFH)  
A Brush with Kindness Program?**

Are you struggling to keep your home in livable condition? Have you had to choose between paying for food, medication, taxes and basic utilities or fixing your home? Are you facing city code violations or homeowner insurance cancellation due to the condition of your home? Do you have physical challenges that require improvements that you can't afford?

When basic expenses exceed income month after month, home maintenance is often a casualty. Years of deferred maintenance can cause a downward spiral of home deterioration and result in unsafe living conditions. A Brush with Kindness is Habitat for Humanity's house preservation initiative that focuses on home repairs. It helps struggling homeowners to restore and maintain a safe and decent place to live.

**HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS**

- Applicant must own the home.
- The home must be the homeowner(s)' primary residence.
- The homeowner(s) must fall within certain income guidelines as shown below.
- Other criteria may apply.

Family Size	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
Max. Income	\$30,600	\$34,950	\$39,300	\$43,650	\$47,150	\$50,650	\$54,150	\$57,650

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Pastor Douglas Chase, a member of the Stewardship and Mission Committee, or the construction team at Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity at 732-228-7962, extension 105.

## Seasonal Allergies, and What to do About Them



Allergic reactions occur when the body defends itself against something that is not present. A normal immune system remembers and defends against invading bacteria and viruses.

During allergic reactions, however, the immune system fights generally harmless allergens, such as pollen or mold, with production of a special class of antibody called immunoglobulin E (IgE).

**Fast Facts:** Allergies are reactions of your immune system to one or more things. Pollens and mold spores can cause seasonal allergic reactions. The immune system is your body's defense system. In most allergic reactions, however, it is responding to a false alarm. Allergies cause runny noses, sneezing, itching, rashes, swelling, hives, abdominal pain, or asthma. Allergies typically make you feel bad. However, a severe reaction, called anaphylaxis, is life threatening. — Source: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

**Seasonal Allergies: Nuisance or Real Health Threat?** For most people, hay fever is a seasonal problem—something to endure for a few weeks once or twice a year. But for others, such allergies can lead to more serious complications, including sinusitis and asthma.

**Treatment:** For allergy sufferers, the best treatment is to avoid the offending allergens altogether. This may be possible if the allergen is a specific food, like peanuts, which can be cut out of the diet, but not when the very air we breathe is loaded with allergens, such as ragweed pollen. Air purifiers, filters, humidifiers, and conditioners provide varying degrees of relief, but none is 100 percent effective. Various over-the-counter or prescription medications offer relief, too.

**Antihistamines.** These medications counter the effects of histamine, the substance that makes eyes water and noses itch and causes sneezing during allergic reactions. Sleepiness was a problem with the first generation of antihistamines, but the newest drugs do not cause such a problem.

**Nasal steroids.** These anti-inflammatory sprays help decrease inflammation, swelling, and mucus production. They work well in combination with antihistamines and, in low doses for brief periods of time, are relatively free of side effects.

**Cromolyn sodium.** A nasal spray, cromolyn sodium can help stop hay fever, perhaps by blocking release of histamine and other symptom-producing chemicals. It has few side effects.

**Decongestants.** Available in capsule and spray form, decongestants thin nasal secretions and can reduce swelling and sinus discomfort. Intended for short-term use, they are usually used in combination with antihistamines. Long-term usage of spray decongestants can actually make symptoms worse, while decongestant pills do not have this problem.

**Immunotherapy.** Immunotherapy (allergy shots) might provide relief for patients who don't find relief with antihistamines or nasal steroids. They alter the body's immune response to allergens, thereby helping to prevent allergic reactions. Current immunotherapy treatments are limited because of potential side effects.

*Source NIH*