

GOOD TIDINGS

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

November 2014

A Time for Giving Thanks – Pastor Doug’s Reflection

One of my mentors at a continuing education event a couple of years ago noted that the spirit of thanksgiving can enhance our sense of well-being, empower us to better meet life’s challenges, and help us maintain a healthy spiritual life. As we approach Thanksgiving this month, I invite you to join me in giving thanks for not only material blessings, but for those that we often take for granted.

I thank God for Brick Presbyterian Church – for its church staff – ruling elders and deacons – for our Sunday School staff of teachers, helpers, and also our students. Through each of you, God blesses our common life, as we seek to follow the call of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful for the many quiet volunteers, who so quietly go about things that make a difference, whether maintaining the church property, helping another child of God needing a spiritual friend or support with prayer, a visit, or helping hand. My heart is grateful for those who, without fanfare, faithfully work with our youth – play instruments – sing in vocal ministries to the glory of God – as well as those who provide fellowship opportunities – work to raise funds, and so much more. You each bless my life and our common life.

My spirit rejoices in the wisdom and experience of our seniors – for the zeal and energy of young adults – for the perspective of those in their middle years – for the many faithful souls who gather to worship weekly as an assembled community of faith and hope that bears witness to the world that Christ is alive in the world. I am thankful that we’ve been able to offer some comfort and love to those who were once members of “Tent City” and to those who still struggle in this life. I am appreciative of ministries like our House of Hope and of the Brick Clergy Association that show the world that we in the faith communities can and do work together.

I rejoice in those who have traveled to our area – to stay at our church – who gave up vacation and personal time to help with the ongoing recovery work needed from Hurricane Sandy. I give thanks for those whose courage stands up for what is right, like Nobel Peace Prize winners Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzay. People like these inspire me and others not to let fear rule our lives.

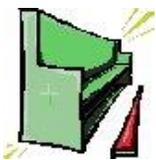
I am grateful for those, who are no longer with us, but whose lives have paved the way for our lives today by their sacrifices and labors of love. I am grateful for those who challenge me that I may grow – for the difficult times that help me to appreciate the easy times – for painful moments that teach compassion – for happy moments that lift the soul – for quiet times that allow for reflection – for changes that (though not always comfortable) teach the appreciation of tradition and offer new and fresh ways to live out our faith.

As I look in the faces of others, I am grateful for the gift of those lives God brings into my life, that I may learn from them, and perhaps find in them the spirit of the indwelling Christ, meeting and teaching me something not always expected. I am grateful for my family whose love and support carries me daily. And I am grateful for each of you, God’s gift to me in Christ. Most of all I am thankful for the love of God and the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that forgives my yesterdays, and continues to try to find a place within me, and lead me and all of us forward.

May the Lord bless each of you, even as I count you a blessing from the Lord in my life.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug



FROM THE DEACONS BENCH

The Deacons received many items for our military collection and were able to box up six boxes of items which were dropped off at a collection point to be forwarded on to men and women serving our country and protecting our freedom. All items donated are very much appreciated as we support these men and women who are deployed. A list of requested items is on the church website.

BRICK HANDBELL CHOIR

The Brick Handbell Choir meets on Monday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the sanctuary. We currently have need for two to four ringers to fill our ringing positions. The ability to read music is ***not*** a prerequisite! We lead worship one Sunday per month and rehearse weekly.



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE



The Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held **Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00 PM** at **St. Thomas Lutheran Church**, 135 Salmon Street, Brick, NJ.

As is the custom, please bring non-perishable foods to be distributed through the church for those who are in need.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



The envelopes for the flower donations can be found in the pews starting on **November 23, 2014** and remaining until **December 14, 2014**. If you would like to donate a poinsettia for Christmas, 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.



1. **Tuscany's Restaurant :**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Deacons Fundraiser at Tuscany's Restaurant. We had a wonderful two-day fundraiser that was very well attended and will help our Deacons as they head into the holiday season. We would also like to thank Tuscany's for their very generous donation and their continued support of our church!

2. **Bon Ton Community Days -- November 14th and 15th:**

The Fundraising Committee is participating in the Bon-Ton Community Days Event again this fall. **Sale Days are Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15th.** Coupon books are on sale now for a \$5.00 donation and include over \$500.00 worth of savings! Your donation will help support our Deacons' Fund so pick up your book outside the FLC between services or visit our website and purchase your book online.

3. **Fall Craft Show:**

On **November 22nd** we will host our second Vendor/Craft show. Come and see our Family Life Center packed with vendors and guests as we head into the Christmas season. Keep an eye out for further details. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Melanie at ChampNet411@yahoo.com

4. **Food For Thought Cards:**

Once again we will be selling Food For Thought Greeting cards to support our food pantry. Please come to our table and check out our new holiday cards including Christmas and Hanukkah. All proceeds of this fundraiser will go to supporting our Deacons food pantry.

5. **Stream Energy:**

As always, see Patrice outside the FLC to sign up for Stream Energy through Brick Presbyterian Church. Whether you sign up for electric or gas or both, Stream will make a generous monthly donation to our church as well as giving you additional savings on your energy bill! Just bring your energy bills to Patrice to see if we can help you help us!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP



If you're in High School and you haven't been out to hang with the Senior High Youth Group this year, we need to fix that! We've already had some great times together this school year, and have some more planned. **On November 9**, we will be teaming up with the Junior Highs to do a fall cleanup at a needy resident's home, and we are going to sell hot dogs and drinks at **the craft show on November 22**. Any money raised selling concessions will go toward purchasing gifts for the underprivileged during **our lock-in on December 12**. These events have always been a blast in the past and we want YOU to join us. **We meet most Sunday nights at 6:30** when we don't have any other events that weekend. Feel free to bring a friend! Any questions?

Call or e-mail Ashia (huelsena@kean.edu 732-604-7244) or Vic (gverick3@gmail.com 908-839-9754).

FACEBOOK



It seems that more and more of our Church family are on **Facebook** these days. If you haven't done so already, make sure to like "Brick Presbyterian Church NJ". It's another useful tool in getting information out to the members of our church, as well as to reach out to others in our community that may be looking for a church home.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Groups would like to thank the congregation for their support of our Bake Sale. The proceeds will be going to our "Earn your Wings" mission project to buy Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in our community.

The Junior and Senior High will join forces on **November 16th for yard cleanup** for a member of the congregation. If you are in need of assistance with leaf clean up, please contact Kathy Kraynick at 732-920-7949.

Please keep your eyes open for missing flamingos who strayed from their flock. They will need your assistance with finding their way back to our church. With a donation to our "Earn Your Wings" project, you can reunite a flamingo with its flock.

Our "Earn Your Wings" project is an annual youth group community service event. The youth groups raise monies all year to supply Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in our own community. These underprivileged children create a Christmas list. With the monies raised, our youth group goes out to Target and tries to purchase as many items on the list as possible. We then go back to the church, wrap and bag all the gifts and get them ready for Christmas morning. It's wonderful to be able to give a child a Christmas they will never forget. After all the wrapping, we celebrate with a fun sleep over at the church with snacks and games.

Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Exodus 3: 3-4

ENTEROVIRUS D68 -- FACTS AND WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is one of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses. This virus was first identified in California in 1962.

What are the symptoms of EV-D68 infection? EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches. Severe symptoms may include wheezing and difficulty breathing. Anyone with respiratory illness should contact their doctor if they are having difficulty breathing or if their symptoms are getting worse.

How does the virus spread? Since EV-D68 causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches a surface that is then touched by others.

What time of the year are people most likely to get infected? In the United States, people are more likely to get infected with enteroviruses in the summer and fall. Cases are likely to decline later in the fall.

How common is EV-D68 in the United States? In general, a mix of enteroviruses circulates every year, and different types of enteroviruses can be common in different years. Small numbers of EV-D68 have been reported regularly to CDC since 1987. However, this year the number of people reported with confirmed EV-D68 infection is much greater than that reported in previous years.

Who is at risk? In general, infants, children, and teenagers are most likely to get infected with enteroviruses and become ill. That's because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to these viruses. We believe this is also true for EV-D68. Adults can get infected with enteroviruses, but they are more likely to have no symptoms or mild symptoms. Children with asthma may have a higher risk for severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 infection.

How is it diagnosed? EV-D68 can only be diagnosed by doing specific lab tests on specimens from a person's nose and throat. Many hospitals and some doctor's offices can test ill patients to see if they have enterovirus infection. However, most cannot do specific testing to determine the type of enterovirus, like EV-D68. CDC and some state health departments can do this sort of testing. CDC recommends that clinicians only consider EV-D68 testing for patients with severe respiratory illness and when the cause is unclear.

What are the treatments? There is no specific treatment for people with respiratory illness caused by EV-D68. For mild respiratory illness, you can help relieve symptoms by taking over-the-counter medications for pain and fever. Aspirin should not be given to children. Some people with severe respiratory illness may need to be hospitalized. There are no antiviral medications currently available for people who become infected with EV-D68.

How can I protect myself? You can help prevent yourself from getting and spreading EV-D68 and other respiratory illnesses by following these steps: Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact such as kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or shirt sleeve, not your hands. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick. Stay home when you are sick. There are no vaccines for preventing EV-D68 infections.

What should people with asthma and children suffering from reactive airway disease do? Children with asthma are at risk for severe symptoms from EV-D68 and other respiratory illnesses. They should follow CDC's guidance to maintain control of their illness during this time. CDC recommends: Discuss and update your [asthma action plan](#) with your primary care provider. Take your prescribed asthma medications as directed, especially long term control medication(s). Be sure to keep your reliever medication with you. Get a flu vaccine when available. If you develop new or worsening asthma symptoms, follow the steps of your asthma action plan. If your symptoms do not go away, call your doctor right away. Parents should make sure the child's caregiver and/or teacher is aware of his/her condition, and that they know how to help if the child experiences any symptoms related to asthma.

Information from Centers for Disease Control & Prevention web site.

Give thanks unto the Lord.

