

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

November 2015

A Time for Giving Thanks – Pastor Doug’s Reflection

A spirit of thanksgiving can enhance our sense of well-being, empower us to better meet life’s challenges, and maintain a healthy spiritual life. As we approach Thanksgiving, 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, its teachers, helpers, and 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 silent volunteers, who so quietly go about doing 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 a 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 meet to worship weekly as a gathered community of faith and hope that bears witness to the fact that Christ is alive in the world. I am thankful that we are able to offer some comfort and love to those who struggle in this life. I am appreciative of ministries through our Board of Deacons that care for the sick and homebound, maintain our food pantry and assist those with emergency needs. Likewise, I am thankful for the Brick Clergy Association who shows the world that we in the faith communities can and do work together in a number of different ways.

I rejoice that we have been able to partner with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in offering hospitality to those who have traveled to our area – for those who will be staying at our church next summer again – who sacrifice vacation and personal time to help with the ongoing recovery work still 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, and for our veterans who have put their lives on the line in defense of our freedoms. People like these inspire us 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 for the ministry we share in different ways. 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 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

INDIANA JONES

AND THE LAST CRUSADE

You are invited to a movie night featuring a showing of "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" with **Pizza & Popcorn** in the Family Life Center on Friday, November 20th.

Pizza will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by the movie at 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by the Stewardship and Mission Committee

"Catch a friend, bring em in"

November 15th is coffee hour Sunday, why not catch a friend that Sunday.



The Outreach Committee



**Veterans Day
Service & Lunch
Nov 8, 2015, 10:00AM
FLC**

Poinsettia Donations

The envelopes for the flower donations can be found in the pews starting on **November 22, 2015** and remaining until **December 13, 2015**. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia for Christmas, please do so during this time frame to ensure inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin. We request that you print clearly on the envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.



Fundraising



Thank you to everyone who supported the Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" Event fundraiser last month. Your support of this and other fundraisers helps our Deacons with the important work they do in our church and our community.

Vendor/Craft Show

On November 14, 2015 we will again be holding a Craft and Vendor Show in the FLC. Come out and choose some items for gifts, decorating and entertaining this Christmas Season. Please contact Melanie at ChampNet411@yahoo.com if you are interested in being a vendor. Any BPC committee wanting a table, please see George Erickson, Jr. for details.

Delicious Orchards Pie Sale

The Fundraising Committee is now taking orders for Delicious Orchards Thanksgiving pies. The 9" pies will be offered in five different flavors and will be available for pickup at the Church on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Order forms are available outside the FLC and on the website. Hurry...the last day to order is Sunday, November 8, 2015.



Stream Energy



Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church if you sign up with them for savings on your gas and/or electric bills. See Patrice to find out how you can save money this winter!

PAINT PARTY

There will be a Paint Party to benefit the "Earn your Wings" project that brings Christmas to the less fortunate children in our community, hosted by the Youth Groups.

The event will be held in the Family Life Center on November 15th from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The cost is \$25.00.

The Youth Groups will be taking reservations with payments starting October 18th in the Narthex.

Paint Parties are all the craze these days, it's a fun and easy way to be creative. A professional artist will come in and show us step by step how to make our own creative original painting to take home and display.

Refreshments and baked items will be provided by the Youth Groups. Space is limited so make sure to get your reservations in early!



Join Us for Dedication Sunday on November 15th



**Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (I Peter 4:10)**

For more than one hundred years, Brick Presbyterian Church has served as the gathering place for believers who seek to learn more about God, grow in faith, and engage in activities that provide opportunities to serve those in our community and around the globe. As we participate in the life of the church, we experience the love, hope, peace and joy that truly are the gifts of the Spirit.

Over the coming weeks, you are invited to prayerfully consider all that God has provided in your life and the ways in which you can honor the Lord with your gifts of finances, talents and prayers for the work that is done through this congregation. On November 15th, you are invited to return the pledge card that you received in your "backpack" at church or in the mailing to your home as we dedicate ourselves and our resources during the service to our Lord's work here at Brick Presbyterian Church.

Deacons

The Board of Deacons appreciates all the wonderful donations made to the food bank and there is no better time than right now, as Thanksgiving is right around the corner. The food bank has plenty of pasta and vegetables at this time but donations of peanut butter, jelly, stuffing, cranberry sauce, coffee and tea are always needed.



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

As of October 15th, \$798.00 has been received in donations to our Peace and Global Witness special offering. 25% of the donations received will be retained by our congregation for a peace and witness ministry of our choice. Thank you for your efforts toward creating a world of peace.

The Stewardship and Mission Committee