

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

November 2016

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## The Makings of a Winning Team – A Pastoral Observation & Reflection

Watching a NFL game recently on TV, I saw one team playing very well while its opponent was by comparison playing rather poorly. The team that was playing poorly suffered for a number of reasons. The losing team was down several star players because of injuries. Several of the players on the losing team didn't seem to play with much enthusiasm as evidenced by the half-hearted blocking in defense of their quarterback. Others players on that team seemed distracted and unfocused. Receivers didn't seem to be paying attention to the plays being called. Another player seemed bent on making himself the center of attention by un-sportsman like conduct.

The winning team by contrast worked like a well oiled machine. It was evident that each player was fully committed to the others on the team. Each seemed to realize that being a team was about being part of a greater whole. Each player was clearly committed to giving his all on each and every play, whether a part of the offense, defense, blockers, or ball receivers. When plays fell apart, those players could be seen rallying around the player who fumbled the ball, dropped a pass, missed a block, helping that player know the team hadn't given up on him. They encouraged him to hang tough, and focus on the next play. When a play went well all the players shared the joyous moment together.

The difference between the two teams in that game was clear. Though each team had lots of professional level talent, the team that was moving the football and scoring worked as a team. Personal egos were set aside. The players on the winning team were all about facing a challenge and meeting a goal together. The players of that team were fully present—fully engaged—doing all that each could for the common good.

When the Church is at its best, all of its members are fully present—fully engaged—fully focused on their mission to worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. When team Christian church is at its best, it is listening together to its team franchise owner and quarterback, Jesus Christ. When the church is moving the spiritual football down the field well, it is often because each member is doing all he or she can regardless of how great or small each players role may seem. It's hard to picture a football team winning a game with only half of its defense or half of its offense on the field against an opposing team that has all of its players.

How often we may think it doesn't matter if I show up or not, because I may be just sitting on the bench. But, one never knows at any given moment in a game when a coach may call a player off the bench to replace an injured player, give a tired player a break, or even become a new star. The truth is the presence of each and every one of us is vital to a team's success on the playing field of life.

Think of the great energy we feel when the church is full on Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter. Hymns are sung with more voices and energy. There is power that is felt by more of the team being together in that hour. When the whole team is present and engaged, there is a strength that God gives—an encouragement that's from the Holy Spirit—and a power that can mobilize us in Jesus Christ to be the Lord's powerhouse team marching down the football field of life with God's life changing love. Let's go team Jesus. Let's win one for the Lord, together! Amen.

# OUR FEATURE PRESENTATION



You are invited to a movie night featuring

a showing of "Back to the Future"

with **Pizza & Popcorn** in the **Family Life Center**

**on Friday, November 4th.**

***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*

**P.S.**

There will be a fun event on this evening featuring photos provided by members of our church family when they were young!

**Don't miss it!**

## *BPC Worship Services this November*

### *Join Us for Dedication Sunday on November 6th*



Day by day, week by week, and in every month of the year, we at Brick Presbyterian Church strive to honor our Lord and tell the story of God's love and grace - in worship services, in fellowship groups, in the many activities that take place on our church campus, and in our outreach efforts. Each of these presents an opportunity for us to bring glimpses of eternal life in the kingdom of God to a world that is longing for love, peace and hope.

As we look forward to 2017, you are encouraged 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 6th, we invite you to return the pledge card that you received in the mailing to your home or that is found in the pew as we dedicate ourselves and our resources during the service to our Lord's work here at Brick Presbyterian Church.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

*- The Stewardship and Mission Committee*

**Veterans Day Sunday  
Worship & Luncheon  
Taking place in FLC**

**November 13th**

**There will be one service at 10am followed by the luncheon.**

***Please note:***

***Sunday school on November 13 will start at 10:00am.***



## PLEASE SUPPORT THE ACTIVE MILITARY

**There will be a special Veteran's Day service on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, here at the church.** The Deacons are asking for your help to support the men and women who are serving overseas to protect our country and our freedom. There is a box in the narthex for donations and once we have enough items, they are boxed up and taken to a drop off point. Here are some of the most requested items:

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

Chap Stick	Q-Tips (sm. packs)	Razors	Eye moisture drops
Socks (white or green)	Protein Bars	Mouthwash	Toothbrushes
Granola/Cereal Bars	Hard Candy	Batteries	Tissues
Foot Powder	Gum/Breath Mints	Cookies	Microwave Foods
Popcorn	Suntan Lotion	Writing Paper	Pens, Pencils
Used Cell Phones	Cough Drops	Vitamins	Shaving Cream
Wipes	Deodorant	Coffee packets/tea bags	
Small powered drink mixes (to add to water bottles)			

**All items should be medium or small in size. No pump type bottles.**



**Sunday, November 20, 2016 - Catch a friend bring 'em in.**

**It's Coffee Hour Sunday so -**

*invite a friend to worship and have coffee with you!*

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

The envelopes for the flower donations can be found in the pews starting on **November 20, 2016**, and remaining until **December 11, 2016**. 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.*



**Thank you for your gifts totaling \$1,292 to the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering.** Your support of this offering acknowledges that while a wilderness of conflict may surround us, we do not consider ourselves abandoned there. We open our eyes to the possibilities of peace and support opportunities found around the world to make the grace and love of our gracious God known to all.



***Thank you to everyone who supported our Tuscany Restaurant and Boscov's Shopping Pass fundraisers. We hope you enjoyed a great day of shopping and a delicious meal!***



**Christmas wreaths and poinsettia pre-orders will be taken until November 6** with delivery/pickup expected to take place during the first week of December. ***More specific information will be announced as it is received.***

***We have Begun Taking Orders for Holiday Pies.***

This year we will be ordering from **Cameo Cakes in Brielle**. They are offering us a much wider variety of flavors for 10-inch deep-dish pies. Order forms are available outside the FLC and on the church website. **Orders will be taken until November 13**. The pies will be brought fresh from the bakery on the morning of November 22 and will only be available for pickup at the church later that day. Pickup times will be announced. ***Buy one for Thanksgiving and freeze one for Christmas!***



**CRAFT SHOW COMING IN NOVEMBER!**



The fundraiser you have all been waiting for – our **Craft Show** will be back on **November 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.!** Admission is free and there will be plenty of door prizes. It's the perfect place to do some holiday shopping.

*Many unique vendors and crafters will be ready to fill your Christmas stockings with great gifts!*

**During November and December,  
the Fundraising Committee  
will be BACK at BOSCOV'S to do  
Christmas Giftwrapping  
but we will need a little help.**

All wrap, boxes, bows and tissue are provided by the store and we will be accepting donations from the customers.

**We have chosen six dates, all from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet will be available at our table outside the FLC for anyone interested in helping us out.



*We had a lot of fun last year so please  
Come Join Us!*

**Greetings from the Board of Deacons!**

### **FOOD PANTRY**

The Deacons are in the process of getting the **Food Pantry** stocked and ready for the **upcoming holidays**, and we continue to need the help of the congregation.

***Our current food needs include:***

**Coffee/Tea  
Gravy  
Stuffing  
Cranberry Sauce  
Potatoes (box)  
Rice  
Jell-O  
Mac & Cheese  
Jelly  
Canned Dinners**



All unexpired non-perishable items are appreciated. **EVERY donation helps.** Thank you very much for your generous contributions.

**So You Can Make Your Plans Early...**



**Christmas Eve Services**  
will be at  
**5:00pm and 8:00pm**  
on **Saturday, December 24th**

**Christmas Day**  
(*Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>*)

&

**New Years' Day**  
(*Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>*)



**We will have one service at 10AM on Christmas Day & New Years' Day.**  
There will be **NO Sunday School** on Christmas Day & New Year's Day.



### **Junior High Youth Group**

A big **Thank You to** all of you who returned your Flamingo's back to their flock with a donation and for supporting our bake sale, all proceeds go to our "**Earn Your Wings**" **Project.** We are off to a good start and look forward to providing Christmas gifts to the many less fortunate children in our community.

***Both Youth Groups will be doing Fall Cleanup on November 13th at 11:30am.***  
***We will meet in the church parking lot.***

November 20th - meeting in the family life center 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many 1 Corinthians 12:14*