

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

October 2015

Pastor Doug's Thoughts on Worship As An Act of Resistance to the World

I don't need to tell you how divided and torn apart our world is. Evidence is everywhere. All one has to do is look at the conflicts in the Middle East – the tensions and threats that erupt from North Korea – the constant military pressure between Japan and China – the immigration concerns in Europe as Syrian refugees seek protection – to say nothing about the immigration debate in the United States.

Polarized life in America is evident in fragmented families, racial strain, and tensions between law enforcement and civilians. The rifts among various political, religious, and economic factions are painfully present.

Now try to imagine a world where everyone respects everyone else. Imagine for a moment a world where people come together seeking mutual good. Close your eyes and envision a world where people harmoniously work through difficult and painful issues instead of simply walking away from those who don't meet their needs or satisfy their agenda, or perhaps make them uncomfortable. Picture a world where people don't use religion and faith to put down others or to justify evil acts against others. It sounds very foreign to our experiences, doesn't it?

The prophet Isaiah envisioned a time when “*the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, ... a weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den [and] they shall not hurt or destroy.*” According to John's gospel, Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples. The ministry of Jesus was a ministry of reconciling the world to God, of praying for enemies, of bridging the religious, social, political and economic divides that too often tore apart the people and world of his day and ours.

Now, I would like you to embrace that vision of a world that comes together embodying God's love for all. I want you to think for a moment that our coming together on World Wide Communion Sunday is not just a religious ritual. Rather, think of it as God's people uniting with others filled with the reconciling love of Jesus Christ in a powerful witness that declares, “Enough! It's time to realize all are children of God! To say by our worship – by our breaking bread – by our sharing of the cup that in Jesus Christ all are one!”

We don't often think about worship as a witness to the world not gathered with us. But I invite you to think of our worship of God – a God who in Jesus Christ challenges the powers of sin and evil – of divisiveness and self-centeredness, as a holy resistance and witness pointing the way to an alternative world we are too often hesitant to envision. I invite and encourage you to join me on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 4th, in declaring a unity that is greater than sin's divisive ways. I encourage you to help make our worship a prophet act of faith, declaring the way to a new heaven and earth for all God's people.

FLU CLINIC & CHRONIC DISEASE SCREENING

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, the Ocean County Health Department will be providing a clinic for our congregation in our Family Life Center from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. They will provide the flu shots, which they do each year. There will also be other vaccines and screenings for some diseases. This is for all, so please let your friends & neighbors know that they can get their “shots” here! Get prepared for the upcoming flu season and take advantage of this opportunity. The fee schedule for the influenza or pneumonia immunizations are outlined below:



- a. Public – Medicare B, non-HMO = No Charge; Assure Medicare # is legible.
- b. Railroad Retired = No Charge; Assure Medicare # is legible.
- c. Medicare Part B HMO = \$20.00
- d. Public – With or without private insurance = \$20.00

Additionally, they offer Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccinations for free and shingles vaccinations for \$180 and provide an insurance reimbursement form for you to submit directly to your insurance provider.

The Health Ministry Team looks forward to seeing you there!

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th



Confirmation Class We are very excited to announce that Confirmation Classes will be starting on Sunday, October 4th. The classes will take place between worship services on Sundays. The class on October 4th is an organizational class, in which we want parents and students present to gather information and receive an outline of class expectations for the year. The class will meet in the church parlor on October 4th. Classes after that will meet upstairs in the Youth Group room. Vic Erickson and Pastor Doug are looking forward to this year’s class as we talk about what Presbyterians and Christians believe, and what it means to be a committed person of faith to Jesus Christ and to Christ's Church.

JUNIOR HIGHS

The Junior High Youth Group had a great time of fellowship and pizza at their kickoff party in September and look forward to an exciting year of mission work, fellowship, and fun!

Mark your calendar with the upcoming events:

October 11th - Bake Sale (raise funds for Christmas gifts for underprivileged children)

October 11th - Meeting FLC 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

October 16th - Church Halloween Party - 6:30pm

October 18th - Trip to Von Thun's Corn Maze





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The lasting value in a gift of peace

The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved transforming the Peacemaking Offering to the Peace and Global Witness Offering to build on the rich tradition of our church's commitment to peacemaking as well as to engage with our global partners in new initiatives of reconciliation.

Our thoughts turn to the meaning of peace and how, through Christ, we can nurture it inside ourselves and out in the world. Yet, to understand the value of peace, we must also understand the cost of conflict, and the many forms it can take.

- Conflict can be individual: 1 in 4 U.S. students reports being bullied at school.
- Conflict can be collective: Up to 70% of women experience violence in their lifetimes.
- Conflict can be domestic: 1 in 3 women has been the victim of violence at the hands of an intimate partner. 1 in 4 children has been physically abused.
- Conflict can be international: Conflict and political violence are on the rise in 48 countries.
- Conflict can be historical: Structural racism creates long-term deficits of opportunity.
- Conflict can be contemporary: Human trafficking and forced labor affect 3 of every 1,000 people in the world today.

To help address these diverse challenges, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports a range of ministries devoted to peacemaking and reconciliation. This includes bearing witness in communities of conflict around the world, hosting education programs to raise awareness, driving local peacemaking efforts, offering catalyst support to our mission co-workers, and much more.

Imagine what a gift it is to those who have been hurt, in both their spirit and their community, to find a lasting peace and resolve conflict in its many forms.

When you give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering on Sunday October 4th, World Communion Sunday, your true gift is the peace of Christ, for all of God's children. With each gift, we can begin to create a world of peace—together.

Please give generously. Remember that 25% of the Offering will be kept for our congregation's use on behalf of those struggling through oppression and injustice.

Learn more about issues of conflict:

Bullying: www.stopbullying.gov

Violence against women: www.endviolence.un.org

World conflict: www.visionofhumanity.org

Structural racism: www.boysandmenofcolor.org

Human trafficking: www.unodc.org

(Information obtained from the Presbyterian Mission Agency website)

**WE HAVE A WONDERFULLY GHOULISH IDEA BREWING-
SO WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN THE FUN AT A**



**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2015
FROM 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM**

IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER @ BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**\$5.00 PER GHOULISH GUEST (5YRS & UNDER FREE!)
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE NARTHEX**

**BE READY TO ENJOY FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES, PRIZES, &
COSTUME CONTESTS FOR KIDS, TEENS, & EVEN THE ADULTS!**

HALLOWEEN IS A FUN HOLIDAY FOR ALL AGES!



"HELPING EACH OTHER TO HELP OTHERS"

***Enter our baking contest
to be held on Sunday, October 18th***

The Mission Project Committee invites you to participate in a very special baking contest. This fundraising event will be held on Sunday, October 18th between services. Contestants are encouraged to make their favorite baked goods, donate a \$10 entrance fee, and submit their baked goods to our panel of taste testing judges. Awesome prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place; honorable mentions will also be awarded for those participating.

The baked goods will be served to our church family during coffee hour and all proceeds will be given on behalf of our congregation to Unified Mission. For all you aspiring Sara Lees and Cake Bosses, this is your opportunity to share your baking talent with our congregation. We'll enjoy your treats, knowing that together we are helping to serve and support our church's Unified Mission. For further information, look for the sign up tables in the narthex or call Carol Farley at 732-477-1108.

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who supported our Chrysanthemum and Tuscany fundraisers in September. A special thank you to Tim and Bob Towlen for arranging the mum fundraiser in support of the Deacons' Fund. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" Event

On Tuesday, October 20, 2015 we will be participating in Boscov's Department Store's Friends Helping Friends Day. The event runs from 9 AM to 11 PM and the \$5 pass includes a 25% off discount shopping pass, refreshments, entertainment, and a chance to win prizes. The pass can be used multiple times at multiple locations throughout NJ, NY, PA, MD, DEL and OH. We have begun selling the passes, so please look for us outside the FLC.



Delicious Orchards Pie Sale



During the months of October and November we will be taking orders for Delicious Orchards Thanksgiving pies. The 9" pies will be offered in five different flavors and will be available for pick-up at the Church on Tuesday, November 24th. Please see us for order forms.

Craft and Vendor Show

On Saturday, 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 if you are interested in being a vendor at ChampNet411@yahoo.com. Any BPC committee wanting a table, please see George Erickson, Jr. for details.

Stream Energy

If you are looking for another way to help our Church, this is just a reminder that Stream Energy makes a significant donation to us if you sign up with them, while at the same time saving you money on your gas and/or electric bills. Patrice has all the details.



EVANGELISM/OUTREACH

Don't forget to "Catch A Friend, Bring 'Em In"
on Sunday, October 18th.

It's coffee hour Sunday, so invite a friend for coffee and fellowship.

JOIN US ON OCTOBER 25TH AS WE WELCOME MARK HARE, OUR MISSION CO-WORKER IN HAITI

As noted in last month's newsletter, Mark Hare has served as our mission co-worker in Haiti since 2004 and works with Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP) helping Haitians learn to grow a lot of food on a small amount of land. His wife, Jenny Bent, helps the Evangelical Dominican Church with its health ministries in the bateys, company towns largely populated by Haitian sugarcane workers in the Dominican Republic.

Mark, Jenny, and their two daughters are now in the United States (Ohio) for one year. In his letter from June 2015 posted on the Presbyterian Agency Website, Mark shared the following:

... our next task is to reach out to you, our friends and siblings in Christ who have been supporting us with your cards, your e-mails, your prayers and your financial contributions. These next 12 months while we are based here in Amesville are dedicated to connecting with you, to offer you our stories from the work of God in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Mark will be our guest speaker at both worship services on Sunday, October 25th. We invite you to join us then, and at a special coffee hour that day, to learn more about his family's work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.” 1 Corinthians 1:25, 2:4-4 (NIV)

(From Mark’s blog at <http://markandjenny--pcusa.blogspot.com/>)

Sunday School 2015-2016



Welcome Back! It was great to see so many of you on the first day of Sunday School. We have an exciting year planned and we hope to share every Sunday morning with you. Below is some basic information that you may find useful, as well as some dates for upcoming activities and events.



We are trying something new this year by having one musical entity for all youth from Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. It will be appropriately called the Junior Praise Team (JPT) and will be led by Mike Slater, Kathy Kraynick and Kelly Kraynick. The JPT will rehearse after Sunday School on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and occasional 5th weeks in the music room next to the Parlor. They will participate in worship on the 3rd Sunday (Family Sunday).

Sunday School class begins promptly at 9:00 am. Please make every effort to be on time as the teachers only have an hour with the children and every minute counts. Late arrivals can be disruptive to class especially if the teacher must go back and recap what a child has missed. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The third Sunday of each month will be Family Sunday (FS). Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Fourth will attend service in the Sanctuary with their family and exit following the Children's Moment to go to class. Grades fifth through eighth will remain in the Sanctuary for the entire service.

We will be continuing with our perfect attendance gift card incentive this year. If you achieve perfect attendance for the month you will receive a \$5.00 gift card to Five Below at the next month's Family Sunday. Please look for our attendance bulletin board in the Narthex where you can follow your progress. Attendance will be taken on Family Sunday.

On Sunday, October 18 (FS), the third grade class will be receiving their next stage Bibles in the Sanctuary. If you have a child of any age that has not received a Bible from the church, please let us know in the Christian Education office and we will have one ready for them on that date as well.



If your child has not received their 2015 offering envelopes or has misplaced them, please let us know. The children thoroughly enjoy the act of giving no matter the size of the gift and we do not want any of them to feel left out.

Friday, October 16 at 6:30 pm, will be the Halloween Party sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Our children usually have several opportunities to celebrate Halloween, but this party has truly evolved into something so enjoyable. It is low key, dinner and dessert are served, both children and adults dress up (some do not) and simply have a multi-generational good time.

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The Christmas Festival will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015, beginning at 4:00 pm. This is an extremely enjoyable family event which includes the Christmas play, dinner, dessert, crafts and a visit from Santa. This event has become a wonderful way to kick off the Advent Season. Parts for the Sunday School Christmas play will be assigned by the end of September. We hope to have 100% student participation this year!

We have added a new volunteer opportunity this year. We would like to have a class parent for each classroom. The role of the class parent will be to keep the lines of communication open between the teacher, church staff, and the other parents.

If you have any questions regarding Sunday School or would like to volunteer, please email donnaschlatter@comcast.net or call 732-581-4911.

DEACONS

The Board of Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our food pantry. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. If any member of the congregation knows of someone who could benefit from receiving a food basket for Thanksgiving, please contact Sherrie Cumella at 908-330-0600 as soon as possible.

Our food pantry was extremely lucky to receive food collected by the Brick Post Office food drive. We are honored and would like to say thank you so much for the faith the post office has placed in our ability to provide this food to our community.

We would like the congregation to know what our specific needs are for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We need the following items: peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, cereal, potatoes, stuffing, mayonnaise, macaroni & cheese, soup, rice, gravy and cranberry sauce. At the present time we have an abundance of vegetables and pasta. All food is appreciated but the above items would assist us as we prepare for the holidays. Thank you so much for your generous donations.



*Holiday
Baskets*