

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

October 2012

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## A Pastor Reflects on a Religiously and Politically Divided World



At one time in human history it was thought the earth was the center of the universe, with the sun rotating around the earth like the moon. It seemed like a reasonable thing to believe in that day. In many ways for those who lived on planet earth, the earth was the center of the universe. Along came astute observers like Galileo and Copernicus, who shocked the world, by demonstrating the earth was not the center of the universe. Though these were men of faith, they were labeled as heretics.

At one time many thought the earth was flat. It was thought that if one sailed out into the sea far enough one might sail off the edge of the earth to oblivion. To casual observers that seemed to be true. But explorers like Christopher Columbus, dared to challenge the long held belief, sailing across the vast expanses of Ocean water to discover what became known as the new world.

Michel De Montaigne wrote, “Nothing is so firmly believed as what we least know.” That seems to have been true of those who labeled Galileo and Copernicus as they firmly held on to inadequate understandings of the world and truth. Likewise, it was not until brave mariners such as Columbus, the Vikings and others proved one would not sail off the edge of a “flat earth” that firmly held beliefs about what was least known eventually changed.

It seems to me there is a lesson for all of us in this. Many people are divided over deeply held political convictions. Various political factions claim that they have the real “facts.” In the world of religion, a force that one would like to think might unite people, I have observed something similar. Religious extremists have taken part of what their faith teaches, and ignored other parts of what the faith teaches, so as to justify vicious attacks on those who don’t perceive the world as they do – all in the name of “God” or religion.

Someone once noted that “a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing.” So it seems when any of us think we know more than we really do. This is not only true in the study of science, the practice of politics, or the living out of religious faith, it is also true in how we relate with one another, carry on our conversations, assess those we think we know, and even as we assess our selves. The Apostle Paul wrote wise words about himself that may be applicable to ourselves, saying: “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.”

Perhaps conversations about politics and political truths—about religion and religious truths would be less divisive and antagonistic if we remembered Paul’s insight and reflect more on human history. “What does the Lord require of us but this to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God?” May the peace of the Lord be among us all.

**WE HAVE A WONDERFULLY  
GHOLLISH IDEA BREWING-**

**SO WHY NOT JOIN THE FUN  
AND BE OUR GUEST AT A**

**HALL WEEN  
PARTY**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 19, 2012  
FROM 6:30PM-9:30PM**

**IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER @  
BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**\$2.00 PER GHOLLISH 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!**

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our Annual HARVEST DINNER will be on Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 PM. The prices are the SAME as last year. Ten dollars (\$10) for all above 12 years of age; five dollars (\$5.00) for those 6 yrs to 12 years and free for those below six yrs. Tickets will be on sale the first week of October.

We are in need of volunteers to roast turkeys for us. Reimbursement for the price of turkeys is available. Contact Lois Erickson through the church office (477-0676). We are hoping for record turnout this year. All profits to benefit the continuing education fund. Thank you!



BPC is proud to welcome Maria Cambria on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for an afternoon of music that celebrates the love of God made known to us through our Savior, Jesus Christ. There will be a free will offering, which will go to the Deacon's support of those in need in our community. This program was rescheduled from last month.

## Free Health Screenings !



The Center for Healthy Aging at Kimball Medical Center will be offering free screenings on Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 -2. This will include balance, glucose, blood pressure and respiratory screenings as well as prescription consultations by one of their pharmacists. There will be refreshments and giveaways! This event will be held in our Family Life Center.

Please call to register by Monday, October 22 to the church at 732- 477-0676 or to Kelly DeLeon at 732-597-6075.

We look forward to seeing you on the 24<sup>th</sup> & don't forget to bring your prescriptions to be reviewed by the pharmacist!

## Flu Shot Time!

When school days are here it means that it is flu season. So be prepared! Make sure you get your flu shot & any other vaccines you need.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone over six months old get the flu vaccine. It's especially important for young children, people 65 and older, and individuals with asthma, diabetes, heart disease, COPD, and other chronic health conditions. It is also important for pregnant women, because the flu can hurt developing babies. The same goes for healthcare workers and caregivers so they won't infect the vulnerable babies, elderly and patients in their care.

And remember: The flu vaccine is seasonal; that means you have to get it every year. Last year's vaccine won't protect you against this year's flu.

The flu vaccine is given in two ways: by injection or a mist sprayed in your nose. The shot is approved for people over six months of age. The mist is OK for healthy people 2 to 49 who are not pregnant.

Pneumonia vaccine. The CDC also recommends the PPSV (pneumococcal polysaccharide) for people 65 and over, people 2 to 64 with chronic health conditions or immune systems weakened by disease or medications, smokers 19 to 64 and residents of long term facilities.

As always, please check with your physician!

*This information was obtained from the Alere health flyer.*



## Flu Shot Clinic



The Health Ministry team is coordinating a Flu Shot Clinic at our church with the Ocean County Health Department. It will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012 in our Christian Family Life Center from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. We would like you to invite your friends & neighbors to come to this event to be prepared for the upcoming flu season. Questions can be directed to the team through the church office. We hope to see you on October 7<sup>th</sup> to prepare you & your family for the upcoming flu season!

## Do We Have Your E-mail Address?

We have started emailing our newsletter (so you can read it BEFORE you get the print copy!) as well as other pertinent information about events happening at Brick Presbyterian Church. If you are not receiving this information and would like to, please contact us with your e-mail address. You can contact the church office ([brick.presbyterian@verizon](mailto:brick.presbyterian@verizon)) or Kathy at [newsletter@brickpresby.com](mailto:newsletter@brickpresby.com). Thanks for your help in keeping our church connected!



## *Why is October 16th an important date?*



In 1980, the United Nations' General Assembly endorsed the observance of October 16 as World Food Day in consideration of the fact that "food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity." (resolution 35/70 of 5 December 1980).

Our denomination recognizes **October 14 - 21** as **Food Week of Action**. Almost one in every seven people in the world experiences hunger every day – not because there is not enough food to feed the world's population but because the structures and systems for producing, buying, selling and sharing food are profoundly broken. The good news is that working together we can change these policies, practices and structures.

As you know, our congregation maintains a food pantry. The Deacons distribute donations in our food pantry locally to those who find themselves in emergency situations, to our brothers and sisters in Tent City, and in food baskets that are prepared for families in our community during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays. We are especially inviting you to **be part of the food solution during Food Week of Action by bringing a canned good or grocery item to help stock our food pantry.**

We hope you will answer our call to action. Your donations may be placed in the container in the narthex.

*- The Board of Deacons*

*(Article information drawn from Wikipedia and [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org))*

## **Presbyterian Women Christmas Wreath Orders From the Mission of the Eastward**



Once again, the Presbyterian Women will be taking orders for Christmas Wreaths made by the people of the Mission of the Eastward in Maine. Look for us in the Narthex starting October 21<sup>st</sup>.

The price of the wreaths are \$ 12.50 each and are beautifully put together by the Mission.

The deadline to order is November 20<sup>th</sup>. You can pay by check (made out to PWNBP – Memo Christmas Wreaths) or cash.

Any questions, contact Lori Evans, PW Vice Moderator through the church office (477-0676).

Let's all support this great mission project and the people of the Eastward!

## **Junior Hi Youth Group**

The Junior High Youth Group got off to a very good start, a big thank you to all the children who came out for the pizza party, tent city and youth rally. You kids are awesome!

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- October 7th - Bake Sale (raise funds for Christmas gifts)
- October 21st - Von Thons Corn Maze
- October 28th - Crop Walk - Pt. Pleasant
- November 4th - Harvest Dinner
- November 11th - Bake Sale (raise funds for Christmas gifts)
- November 17th - House of Hope



Every child from 6th - 8th grade is welcome to join us, please encourage your children to do so; we really have a great year planned.

## **House of Hope Cafe'** *Feeding Body Soul & Spirit*

On Saturday October 13th at 7:00pm the House of Hope Cafe' welcomes back for a very special encore performance, Michael J Maione and the MJM Praise Band. Michael has put together some new and old songs to worship and bring glory to our Lord. And just to make sure the event is perfectly tailored to all our listeners, our very own Zack Slater of 100K sound will be handling all the night's production.

This evening promises to be a great night of praise with music for all walks of the congregation. I hope everyone will consider coming out and fellowshiping at House of Hope Cafe' in October.



## Did You Know?



...that the Peacemaking Offering Program is a ministry that we support through our Mission giving?

The General Assembly's adoption of Peacemaking, The Believers' Calling, which calls for an emphasis on peacemaking, paved the way for this special offering, which seeks to promote the Peace of Christ across the Presbyterian Church. This offering supports the GA in its efforts to provide us an opportunity to witness God's gift of peace in the world. Funds that are received are divided

three ways: 25% to the Congregations, 25% to the Presbytery and synod, and 50% to the General Assembly. Your Mission Committee has voted that our 25% will support our Missionary, Mark Hare.

The impact of the Peacemaking Offering was felt in Bend, Oregon, where the Presbyterian Church partnered with Bend Senior High to train staff and Senior Students to combat bullying in a mentoring program called Link Crew.

On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, we are mindful of our unity with Christians everywhere. When you donate to the Peacemaking Offering, you help support Presbyterians find ways to work with others for peace here and around the world.

In 2011, you, the members and friends of Brick Presbyterian, gave \$ 629 to this offering. We, the members of the Mission Committee, ask you to pray and be as generous as you can on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It's amazing what your gift will provide and always remember "Blessed are the Peacemakers".

*Excerpted from material received from the General Assembly  
by your Mission Committee*

## For Your Information

Our church is a member of Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ). This organization is committed to enabling the frail and elderly in our community to remain living independently in their homes. Their office services over 1300 clients by Caregiver volunteers (about 1,100) who provide over 33,000 hours annually of free assistance including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visits, telephone calls and paperwork assistance.



They also now have over 30 certified therapy dogs in the program who – with their handlers – bring much joy and unconditional love to their receivers. There will be a Caregiver Canines Variety Show on November 4<sup>th</sup> at Toms River Intermediate East School.

CVCJ was honored to receive a 2012 grant from the N.J. Office of Faith Based Initiatives.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

The 2012-2013 Teacher Roster is:



**Child Care (0-3):** Joan Horan  
**Pre/K / Kindergarten:** Melissa Brino & Ryan Fortier  
**First / Second Grade:** Donna Solly & Susan Pacitti  
**Third/Fourth Grade:** Liz Klein & Nicholas Auriemma  
**Fifth / Sixth Grade:** Bonnie Luton & Kindra Slater (temporarily)  
**Seventh / Eighth Grade:** Michael Kraynick



The Christian Education Committee is looking for volunteers and can accommodate your schedule and availability. From teaching to substituting, helping with the Harvest Dinner, sending postcards, making phone calls, driving, baking, taking photos – please consider helping us out! Please contact Donna Schlatter at [christianeducation@brickpresby.com](mailto:christianeducation@brickpresby.com)

## Church Scholarship Recipients

The Christian Education Committee is putting together a sort of tribute to past scholarship recipients. We would like to know how they are now, if they have finished school, etc. We would also love to have a current photo. If you are a recipient or a family member of one, please send us this information as soon as possible. You can email it to [Christianeducation@brickpresby.com](mailto:Christianeducation@brickpresby.com) or send to the church attention Donna Schlatter. Thank you!