

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

September 2015

YOU ARE INVITED TO A REUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE



Family, high school, and college class reunions are wonderful events. I remember attending one of my class reunions some time back. It was great to see those with whom I had gone to school – to see how they had changed – learn what they had been doing through the years – and to discover how much we still had in common though we had not seen each other in years. Reunions that various military groups have, bringing old comrades together, also function to renew the bonds formed during military service and combat. Like class reunions, these gatherings allow veterans to travel down memory lane, sharing their stories and experiences with one another.

Regardless if one is talking about a family reunion, a class reunion, or a reunion of military veterans, some good things take place. People (whether family members, classmates, or fellow veterans) have a chance to reconnect. Life may have led many down different paths since last together. Things may have happened in their lives that pulled them apart and created distance in the relationships. But somewhere in the heart, mind, and soul there lingers a tie to the family, the class, the military outfit.

I recall going to a class reunion some years ago. There was a hesitancy on my part to go, for I wasn't sure if would be able to reconnect with those whom I had been out of touch with for years. What would we talk about? Would I recognize my old friends and associates? Would they recognize me? None of us change over the passing of time, or so we like to pretend. I was no longer that lean long distance runner of 140 pounds with a full head of hair. I had lost all that hair that once covered my head and weighed 50 pounds more. But to my amazement we all seemed to reconnect. And if at first we did not recognize each other, we managed to get past the moments of awkwardness, and rebuild our connections with each other.

On Sunday, September 13th, we at Brick Presbyterian Church are returning to our 9:00 a.m. worship and Sunday school hour and our 11:00 a.m. worship hour. Think of this day as a church family reunion. Many of us have been separated because of Summer vacations and shore activities. For some of us, the busy nature of life may have caused us to drift from our church roots and family in Christ. Life's events like Superstorm Sandy may have imposed hardships upon us that pulled us away. Whatever it is that has interfered with our good intentions to remain tied to the church, you and yours are invited to a Church Family Reunion at Brick Presbyterian Church.

There's no need to feel embarrassed if you haven't been around in some time. That awkwardness will pass as we reconnect with one another over a wonderful pancake breakfast that our Fellowship Committee will be hosting. Think of Sunday Sept. 13th as your opportunity to reaffirm that the Lord and the Church as the Body of Christ – are of central importance. The Lord loves you and wants you to be a part of the body of Christ at Brick Presbyterian Church. Other family members love you and look forward to catching up with you and you with them. The Lord is calling you. Could the Lord be saying – could the church be saying to you: "I am the church, you are the church and together we are a church that can be and do great things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?"

I hope you'll join us!

Pastor Doug



WE'RE BACK TO OUR "REGULAR" WORSHIP TIMES IN SEPTEMBER

Starting Sunday, September 13th we will be returning to our "regular" worship times of 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. See you at worship!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!

Sunday School will begin on September 13th at 9:00 A.M.



Sunday School Start-up

WELCOME BACK PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a "Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast" between services on Sunday, September 13th in the FLC. We hope to see you there!

OUR PRAYERS



On September 27th, a special banner will be placed in the Sanctuary called "Our Prayers". You are invited to choose one or more colored ribbons in the baskets on the table in the Family Life Center (after labor Day) that represent your special prayer request. Place the ribbons in the prayer box on the table, and on September 27th the ribbons will be placed on the Prayer Banner. The meaning for each color is:

- Blue: Penitence (sorry)
- Green: Supplication (ask for something)
- Purple: Praise
- Red: Thanks
- Yellow: Intercession (ask on behalf of someone else)

Also on September 27th, we invite you to "Catch a Friend and Bring 'Em In". It will also be Name Tag Sunday.



Invite a Friend to Church

BRICK HAND-BELL CHOIR

The unique sound of **English handbells** is a joyous and beautiful sound when played by enthusiastic, multi-aged ringers – volunteers who want to participate in the **Music Ministry of BPC** and bring such joy to all who will hear. No special talent is required; only a love for music and a willingness to learn under the leadership of our Director, Rich Christen. The ringers rehearse on **Monday** nights from **7:00 pm – 8:30 pm** beginning **Monday, September 14th**. Please join us, bring the joy of music to others and become a member of the BPC Music Ministry!



PRAYER GROUP



We have been praying for all the people on our prayer list throughout the Summer. Now that Fall is approaching, our meetings will start up again to continue following all our members, their relatives and friends. Please remember...if there are any changes in the status of anyone you have listed on our prayer list, please let Pastor Doug or the church office know as soon as possible, as we update our information on a daily basis! Thank You!

Just a reminder that we will be meeting in the church parlor on Monday evening
September
21st at 7:00 PM.

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 offer an insurance reimbursement form for you to submit directly to your insurance provider.

The Health Ministry Team looks forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Halloween Party on Friday, October 16th.



FUNDRAISING NEWS



We hope everyone had a wonderful Summer and is ready to start the Fall season with the following events:

Fall Chrysanthemum Sale

On Sunday, September 20th, we will once again be holding a mum sale. The beautiful plants always sell quickly so they will only be available on a first come/first served basis. Unsold plants, if any, will be available for purchase on the following Sunday, September 27th. See Tim Towlen for more details.

Tuscany Restaurant

Please join us at Tuscany Restaurant and Bar on Route 88 in Brick on either Monday, September 21, 2015 or Tuesday, September 22, 2015 for lunch or dinner. We will receive 10% of each bill to benefit the Deacons' Fund so come out and have a delicious meal! Look for our flyer outside the FLC or on the church website very soon.

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 will begin selling the passes in September so please look for us outside the FLC.



Stream Energy



Remember, you can save money on your energy bills (electric, gas or both) and help us by being part of the monthly donation made to our church by signing up with Stream Energy. See Patrice for further details.

*Thank you for your continued support of the Fundraising Committee.
Look for upcoming events in the months ahead.*



**We extend an official welcome to Richard Christen,
our NEW MINISTER OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.**

Richard is the son of Sandy Christen and the late Richard Christen. Rich will be playing the organ, keyboard/piano, and directing our hand bell choir.

Rich has a B.S. degree in Bible from the Philadelphia College of Bible; a B. Music Degree from the Philadelphia Bible College; a M. Ed. from the Philadelphia Music Academy and an M.S. Degree in Organizational Leadership & Development from Cairn University.

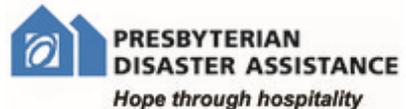
He has an extensive and impressive work history as a church musician.

Rich is married to Lynn Christen.

We feel very blessed that Rich has accepted the call to serve as our new Minister of Instrumental Music.

POST SUPERSTORM SANDY UPDATE

This October marks the third anniversary of the most deadly and devastating storm to hit our beloved Jersey Shore in our lifetime. Yet, Brick Presbyterians remain committed to helping in the long-term recovery efforts by welcoming volunteer groups to stay with us while helping with the recovery effort.



On the weekend of Sept. 18, 19 and 20 we will be hosting a group that booked with us through the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) Call Center. This group from Massachusetts will be staying in our second floor Christian Ed. building and making use of our church kitchen while doing work with Northern Ocean County Habitat for Humanity.

Then, June 20-24, 2016 we will have the return of a volunteer group from the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, Michigan who will be doing work with the group known as A Future of Hope.

We rejoice that we can serve as host to these volunteer work groups in the ongoing restoration of the Jersey Shore. Please pray for them and for our Host Site Committee, Chaired by Frank Miterotonda, as they prepare to offer the best in Brick Presbyterian hospitality to these groups.

OUR MISSION PROJECT
Helping each other to help others

We are happy to report that our Christmas in July sale earned \$142.75 for our Church's unified mission. We would like to thank our helpers: Mike & Kindra Slater, Phyllis Miterotonda and her granddaughter Sarah, Merri Schick, Carol Farley, and the members of the Faithful Remnants for helping to make this fundraiser a success. An extended thanks goes to the members of our congregation who stopped and shopped at the sale. Thank you for your support!



*They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever... Psalm 112:9*

Thank you for your gifts to ...

TOOLS SUNDAY



Your gifts totaled \$730.00 and have been forwarded to Church World Service (CWS). A letter from CWS acknowledging the donation carried the following message for our congregation.

Because of your compassion, families who have lost their homes to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters are getting help. People struggling against crushing poverty and harsh climates are learning sustainable farming practices that will help them keep food on the table - and take it to market. Vulnerable children have access to clean, safe water and the nutritional food essential to growth, development and life itself. Church World Service extends its thanks on behalf of all the people who feel more helpful and less alone because of your generosity.

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

\$810 was received in special offerings for relief to Nepal as it begins to recover from two devastating earthquakes that claimed the lives of more than 8,000 and destroyed countless homes. Your donations were forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for work with its partner in the region, ACT Alliance, whose members are on the ground in Nepal, meeting immediate needs such as food, water and other supplies. Needs assessments are ongoing and PDA is committed to the long-term response.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

NORTHERN OCEAN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



A number of organizations in our area are supported each year through donations designated in our church's annual budget and given on behalf of our congregation. Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity is one of those organizations and sent a thank you note bearing the following message:

**"For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be
based on people's love and concern for each other."**

- Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity International 1976

Thank you for supporting the mission of Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity!

- Stewardship and Mission Committee

DEACONS

Although it is difficult to believe that Summer is over, school is now back in session. We hope everyone had time this Summer to relax and recharge. We would like to remind everyone of the activities and needs the Deacons meet year round. Without the congregation's generosity and assistance, we would be unable to meet these needs, so thank you.



Our food pantry accepts donations of canned goods and food items throughout the year, but with Thanksgiving and Christmas so close together, we need to be sure it is fully stocked over the coming months.

Please continue to donate empty metal coffee cans for the Deacons to use for bringing the chancel flowers every week to congregation members who are hospitalized, homebound and grieving.

Your assistance with any of the things listed above would be greatly appreciated.

LONG RANGE EVALUATION AND PLANNING CONTINUES

You will recall that last June we shared a rather lengthy and in depth survey looking at our worship life and its needs as we look to see what God desires of us in our present and future ministry. Those surveys have required a fair amount of time to gather the results and put into a data base program. Those results will be shared with the congregation in the Spring of 2016. We wish to thank all who took the time and effort to share in that survey.



Now we want to give you a heads up that we will be doing another rather in depth look at an evaluation of our religious education program. This will be done with a survey that will be distributed in late September, when we hope more people will be available and willing to participate. As in all survey efforts, the data we have is and will be only as good as the number of people who honestly participate in the process. Please look for this survey in late September and give us your feedback.

We thank you in advance for your help in this and other surveys that will be taking place, confident that God is continuing to do good and perhaps some new things in our life of faith, worship, education, fellowship and service.

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS



Preemie Hats Together In Service, a Presbyterian Mission and World Service has contacted Presbyterian Women for a Mission Project. There are babies 3 1/2 to 4 lbs. in South Africa that are in need of preemie hats, either knitted or crocheted; also little light cotton baby blankets 35 inches long. Lori Evans has the instructions both knitted and crocheted. Any questions email her at Lmegolfer@gmail.com or call 732-829-8698. Thank you for helping with this Mission Project.

AN UPDATE ON MARK HARE AND JENNY BENT – Our Mission Co-Workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic



Mark Hare and Jenny Bent's ministry with Haitian people transcends international borders. Since 2004, Mark has worked with Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP), helping Haitians learn to grow a lot of food on a small amount of land. Jenny began working with the organization as a volunteer after their marriage in 2008, but in 2012 their ministry base moved just across the border to Barahona, Dominican Republic. Mark continues his work in Haiti, but Jenny came under mission appointment and began a new ministry with Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

Jenny helps the Evangelical Dominican Church with its health ministries in the bateys, company towns largely populated by Haitian sugarcane workers.

Mark's work in Haiti demands resourcefulness. One of the most popular agricultural techniques he teaches involves making miniature garden plots inside discarded auto tires. "In the dry season, there is no rain for five to seven months and people run out of food," Mark says. "So the tires are a way that they can produce something even during the time when they normally couldn't."

This and other productive practices developed by MPP helped rural Haitians feed family members and friends who fled to the countryside after the 2010 earthquake devastated Port au Prince.

Communities in the Dominican Republic are also trying to cope with the large number of Haitians who fled the earthquake's devastation. Violence between Haitians and Dominicans is not uncommon. In addition to her health care ministry, Jenny also wants to be a witness for reconciliation. "My vision is that our Dominican neighbors, friends and colleagues will recognize the inherent dignity of Haitians, and that our Haitian friends and colleagues will recognize the inherent dignity of Dominicans."

Brick Presbyterian Church has supported Mark Hare's ministry for a number of years. The Stewardship and Mission Committee is pleased to announce that **Mark will be our guest on Sunday, October 25th.** Mark your calendars as we look forward to welcoming Mark and learning more about Mark and Jenny's ministry.



(Biographical information taken from the Presbyterian Mission Agency website)