

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

December 2016

We invite you to celebrate Christ's birth with us on **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** at Brick Presbyterian Church. The **services** will be held at **5:00 pm** and **8:00 pm**. Our Christmas Eve Services are a wonderful way to worship the One born King of Kings. So come and bring family and friends for a special time of worship.



*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICES

The **5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service** is a more family oriented service. The **8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service** will feature more traditional style music with our choir and soloist. Both services will feature the lighting of candles at the end of the service.

There will be only one worship service on **Sunday, December 25, 2016 and Sunday, January 1, 2017. Both services will be at 10:00.** Just a note, there will be **NO Sunday school** on either Christmas Day or New Year's Day, so please bring the children, having them remain in the Sanctuary as we enjoy a service "Praising Our Lord" and thanking him for the Gift of His Son.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



Join us **Saturday, December 3** in the Family Life Center for the 2016 Christmas Festival! The event will begin at **4:00 pm** with the Sunday School Christmas Play. The play will be followed by dinner prepared by the Fellowship Committee. We will have holiday crafts for the children to make and a visit from one of Santa's helpers. Donations of desserts would be greatly appreciated. We hope to see you all at this multigenerational celebration of the Advent season.

## 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.





The *Christmas Joy Offering* celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “wondrous gift” of God with us. Jesus arrived in a humble stable in small and insignificant Bethlehem, to lead and teach in truth and love, and bring about God’s salvation to the world. What a “wondrous gift” indeed! This was a gift so profound that the only response was the bringing of more gifts; the Magi arrived with gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor the Christ child.

Devoted and caring leaders have led many of us in the way of Christ. They have been church workers equipping us to respond to the grace we have known in Jesus Christ, and they have been God’s gifts among us. As we celebrate Christ’s coming, and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the Christmas Joy Offering provides a way for us to offer a gift in response. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will also raise up leaders from small places that are too often overlooked by the church. The historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools were founded to educate emerging leaders from underrepresented groups so leadership in the church would better reflect the diversity of God’s people.

Half of the Christmas Joy Offering supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders. The other half of the Offering honors those leaders who serve and have served us well. Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns, or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church they have served.

In gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of Jesus, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) invites congregations to join this celebration of God’s presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope. **On December 18th, our Christmas Joy Offering will be taken.** Special offering envelopes will be available in the pews on December 11th and in your bulletin on December 18th. *Please give generously.*



"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus,  
**'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**"

(ACTS 20:35)

As you do your holiday shopping, are you looking for a meaningful gift idea - one that can make a life-changing difference?

Consider a selection from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Gifts given through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog directly impact the ministries supported by Special Offerings. Look for the catalogs in the narthex and in the Family Life Center hallway. If you prefer online shopping, you may view it at <https://presbyteriangifts.org/gifts/>.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

### Offering Envelopes



The 2017 Offering Envelope Boxes with your name on them will be in the Narthex starting Mid-December for you to pick up. If you are unable to pick up your box and wish to receive it, let me know. Also, if you do not find a box with your name on it and would like one, let me know. Please be sure to submit all your 2016 donations by 12/25/16 (the last Sunday in December), as I will be printing the 2016 statements after that date. Anything received after January 1st will be posted to your 2017 statement. If you have a change of address, be sure to contact me or the church office with your information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Karen Ellis [financialsecretary@brickpresby.com](mailto:financialsecretary@brickpresby.com) or at home at 732-920-3724. Thank you.

### Sunday, December 18, 2016

Catch a friend, bring 'em in  
It's Coffee Hour Sunday so  
invite a friend to worship and have coffee with you!



### Greeting from the Deacons

Thank you very much to our wonderful congregation for all your generous contributions to our food pantry. We were able to provide almost 50 baskets to folks in our community for their Thanksgiving celebrations. Now, we need to replenish our supplies for the upcoming Christmas holidays. Please continue to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items. All contributions are greatly appreciated and gratefully accepted. Thank you very much.



Thank you for your recent donations to our Military Program during the month of November, in recognition of Veteran's Day. Items are accepted year-round, and especially during the holidays. Please continue to remember our active military with your generous donations. Thank you very much. Happy Holidays to all!



# Thank You!

... to all who walked and/or donated to this year's event.

\$480 was raised by our church family!



## FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee would like to say Thank You to all of you who supported our Craft Show and our Thanksgiving Pie fundraisers in November.

## CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND POINSETTIAS

Christmas wreaths and poinsettias will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 4, between services.

## GIFT WRAPPING

The Fundraising Committee will be at Boscov's Department Store on five different dates during December, all from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. doing Christmas gift wrapping and we could use a little help. All wrap, boxes, bows and tissue are provided by the store and we will be accepting donations from the customers. If you are interested in volunteering to help us there is a sign-up sheet outside the FLC. We would be appreciative of any amount of time you can join us from ½ hour to 4 hours!



## OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE



On **Monday and Tuesday, December 5 and 6, Outback Steakhouse** will be hosting a **GIVE BACK** event at the Brick location. Fifteen percent of your total check will be donated to Brick Presbyterian Church when you bring a flyer in for lunch, dinner or take-out. Please look for a flyer on the table outside the FLC or on our website.

Outback is also including the sale of their Gift Cards in this fundraiser. For every \$50.00 spent on Gift Cards you will receive a \$10.00 bonus to be used during January and February.

## STREAMENERGY

Winter, spring, summer or fall, Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church. Sign up now and you will not only see a savings yourself but will also be part of the donation made to our church. For additional information you can contact Patrice Law @ 732-779-7242 or patricealaw@gmail.com.



## Youth Group News



The Youth Groups will be handing out Christmas Ornaments they made with every donation to their "Earn Your Wings Project" on December 4th. We are hoping to increase the number of children we can provide Christmas gifts to 25!

The Shop and Lock In is December 9th, we will meet in the Family Life Center at 6:00pm for a fun night of shopping, wrapping and games.

Christmas Caroling at Preferred Care (formerly Geraldine Thompson Nursing Home) will be on December 17 at 2:30pm.

*For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. These will be his royal titles: "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace," Isaiah 9:6*



*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)*

### STEWARDSHIP & MISSION COMMITTEE

**With the coming of a new year, it is not uncommon to take stock and formulate a resolution. As you envision 2017, the Stewardship and Mission Committee invites you to take a look at ways in which you can support the life of our church.** Are you handy with tools or do you enjoy property maintenance? Do you find yourself singing or have you made music with instruments? Are you interested in exploring ways in which our church carries out mission activities - locally and globally? Do you have a background in the health field that equipped you with knowledge that may be beneficial to other members of our church family? Do you like spending time with children? Do you enjoy our fellowship activities and special events?

All of the committees that make these and so many more things happen at Brick Presbyterian Church extend an invitation to you to share your enthusiasm, knowledge and talent with us. To do so, you may contact us online at <http://www.brickpresby.com/pages/contact-form>, place a note in the offering basket with your interest and contact information, or leave a message at the church office. Make 2017 the year in which you seize a new opportunity to honor God's graciousness to you as we work together to bring glimpses of eternal life in the kingdom of God to a world that is longing for love, peace and hope.

**HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR  
2017 PLANNED GIVING CARD?**