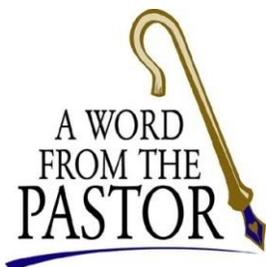


Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

January 2017

Resolving to Receive Each Day as a Gift Reflections by Pastor Doug



Someone once said “The past is what is behind us. The future is what is before us. And, today is a gift which is why we call it the present.” There is a bit of wisdom in that observation. We cannot change the past, though its influence may impact our lives today. Likewise, we cannot foresee all that may be in the future for our lives.

As I enter the year 2017, I find myself entering this New Year without my Dad for the first time. Yet, I carry with me some of my Dad’s sage wisdom. I would often ask him in his final years “How are you today? He would in a dry sense of humor say, “Well, I woke up this morning and didn’t bump my head on any wood lifting my head from the pillow. When I wandered into the kitchen for my morning tea, I saw I was on the green side of the lawn. And, when I opened the paper, I didn’t find my name in the obituaries. It’s a great day.”

My dad said those things even though he had many different health issues. But his point was that he woke up to the gift of a new day – the present. Each day we have is a gift – a present from God. Each day of each year we have is to be lived in gratitude to the Lord our God who made us, and called us each by name before our birth.

I invite you to consider each day a gift from God, for it is a “present.” Therefore, I wish to suggest some resolutions to express your gratitude and faithfulness in following the Lord. Grateful for the gift of life and wanting to follow Jesus more closely in this New Year I resolve:

- To make Sunday Worship a higher priority, for God desires our worship and praise;
- To make Sunday School attendance for my kids as important as sports practice, for Jesus studied in the temple;
- To pray for our congregation, its leadership, and its mission that we may all be faithful stewards of God’s love, for Jesus prayed for and with his disciples;

(continued on next page)

- To get to know 5 people at church that I do not know now, for Jesus was always reaching out to others beyond his immediate circle of friends and family;
- To be willing to have my routines interrupted when the church needs my help, for Jesus' encountered interruptions by others and saw those interruptions as opportunities for ministry;
- To forgive others who may have offended me whether in the church or elsewhere, for Jesus forgave others;
- To let the Lord and the teachings of Scripture guide my understanding of what is going on in the world, and influence my opinions for Jesus was led by the teaching of Scripture;
- To not dread or fear change, for God may be about making a new heaven and a new earth; and
- To resolve that when life seems overwhelming to me not to give up, for God's grace got me through other times when I felt life was more than I could endure.

May we all know the love, joy, hope and peace God offers us with the "present" of each new day.

Have a blessed New Year in Jesus Christ,
Pastor Doug



“INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY”

In times of inclement weather, especially during this upcoming winter season, or for other adverse conditions, the congregation is reminded to tune in to the following radio stations to hear if the church is closed:

WOBM, 92.7 FM (wobm.com)
The Hawk, 105.7 FM (1057TheHawk.com)
The Point, 94.3 FM (943ThePoint.com)
News Talk Radio WOBM 1160 & 1310 AM (wobm.com)
New Jersey 101.5 (NJ1015.com)

For Sunday worship services, the earliest time for such closure announcements would normally be after 7:30 AM. You may also check the Church Website for weather related closings and cancellations by going to www.brickpresby.com.



Call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of Brick Presbyterian Church

The **Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation** of Brick Presbyterian Church will take place on **Sunday, January 29, 2017** in the Family Life Center of the Church at 111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723 starting at 12:15 pm (*following the 11:00 am worship service*). The meeting will begin with a light lunch.

Business to be conducted includes the following: the receiving of annual reports from boards, committees, groups and organizations of the congregation. Other actions will include establishing the Pastor's terms of call, nomination and election of persons to serve on Session, the Board of Deacons and the Standing Nominating Committee. There will also be an important review of the church's financial reports. The meeting will also deal with any constitutionally appropriate business brought forth by members of the congregation from the floor.

It is very important that all members of the congregation be present. Your voice and vote matter. The decisions made at this meeting affect all of us.

If you are the Chair of a Committee/Group that usually has a report in the Annual Meeting Packet, please send your reports via e-mail to dg.chase@yahoo.com .

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES



The **2017 offering envelope boxes** are now available in the church Narthex. The boxes have donors' names on them and the per capita figure is also on the name label. If you do not find a box with your name or would like to have envelopes, please contact Karen. *If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, please let her know and she will be happy to mail them to you.*

Evangelism/Outreach

Don't forget to "Catch a Friend, Bring 'Em in" on January 15th. It's coffee hour Sunday, so invite a friend for coffee and fellowship.



You're invited to join us as we closer to God. Praying in Color is an approach to prayer life that engages our creative side as we seek to build our relationship with the Father. This is a family event being held on **January 21 from 10am to noon**, will feature multi-sensory prayer centers exploring Body Prayer, Ink Stamping a Postcard of Thanks, Praying in Color Journaling, and a Native American Mediation called Sonora using colored stones. A light refreshment will also **explore ways to draw** be served. For further information, contact **Christy Tompkins** or **Lori Evans**. (Snow date is Saturday, January 28, 2017).

"Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"

Jan. 18 thru 25, 2017

"Let us come together as we pray for one another, our country, and our world."



Youth Group



The Youth Groups would like to thank the congregation for all their support with the "Earn Your Wings" project. We were able to provide **31 children** with a Christmas they will never forget. **That is the largest number to date.** The Lock In was a fun night of shopping, wrapping, games and fellowship and little sleep.

The **Youth Groups** will be hosting the **January coffee hour on 15th** to show our appreciation to all of you, please come join us.

We would like to wish all of you a very Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

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

THANK TO YOU!



Our **December fundraisers** were very successful **thanks to all of you** - whether you bought a wreath or poinsettia, volunteered to help our committee **gift wrap** at *Boscov* or enjoyed a *meal* at *Outback Steakhouse* or *Skillet's Fresh Grill*.

Lifetouch Pictorial Directory

We will be working with **Lifetouch** to **update our church directory this spring** and we are hoping to start this project shortly after the first of the year. This effort includes many different facets so we are looking for those of you who might like to join us – maybe you worked on a previous directory and

could share your experience or perhaps you know someone that could help us with the new technology that will certainly play a major role in this undertaking or this might just be the short-term opportunity that you have been looking for to take part in. ***If you are interested in joining us, please see a member of the Fundraising Committee. Thank you!***





Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church if you sign up with them for savings on your gas and/or electric bills. *See Patrice to find out how you can save money this winter!*



Greetings from the Deacons

Brick Presbyterian Church is truly blessed to have received an *abundance of donations to our Food Pantry* this fall. Many expressions of gratitude are extended to our church members, as well as to several community organizations.

Thank you to *Brick Rotary Club* for their donations to our Food Pantry. The Rotary Club collected a large number of donations generously given by patrons of the Brick Shop-Rite. Thank you as well to Shop-Rite and their customers for their caring thoughts and contributions.

Thank you to the *Brick Elks Club* for their generous contributions to our Food Pantry. Many families in our community were able to enjoy a delicious, nutritious holiday meal thanks to generous donations.

Thank you to the congregation for remembering our service men and women who give so selflessly to ensure that our nation's citizens are safe and secure. Your ongoing donations of personal care and food items are graciously and gratefully accepted. Please visit BPC web site for a list of suggested items for our military.

Thank you to our wonderful congregation members, who so lovingly and generously gave to those in need. God bless you all!

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.* Proverbs 11:24

Also, this month, the Deacons **visited Preferred Care Nursing Home** in Wall, NJ (formerly *Geraldine Thompson Nursing Home*). Santa and many singing elves, including Senior and Junior High youth group members, delivered 100 gift/goodie bags to the residents. *A jolly time was had by all!*

Sincere wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Position Opening for Church Organist and Hand Bell Director

Interested applicants should send resumes to the

Attention of Rev. Douglas G. Chase

c/o Brick Presbyterian Church

111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723

Resumes may also be sent via e-mail to the following address:

dg.chase@yahoo.com



Prayer for the New Year

Give us the kindness to hear with compassion,
to offer support,

loving comfort, and care.

Give us the courage to do what is needed,
the wisdom to choose

what is right and most fair.

Give us the vision to see what is possible.

Give us the faith

that will help pave the way

for a present that's hopeful,

a future that's peaceful--

give us the heart to bring joy to each day.