

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

April 2013

Resurrection Is More Than Resuscitation

I always loved the Easter celebration and its celebration of Christ's resurrection. The Easter hymns and music, the flowers in bloom, after a long dreary winter, lift my soul. There's great power and inspiring hope in knowing and believing that death and the powers of evil do not have the last word. Yet, I must confess the metaphors we use to celebrate the hope we have seem so very inadequate. Some people I know think of resurrection as being more like the reviving of the dead – a simple bringing back to life of what once was. The image that comes to my mind is that of someone doing CPR that revives someone from a near death experience.

But, is not resurrection more than resuscitation – more than reviving one whom we love and care about? I would like to think of Resurrection as being about radical transformation – transformation of our values – of the way we love one another – of the breaking forth from the tomb of all that keeps us from being truly alive in Christ's redeeming, life changing love and grace for one another. Is it not about new life – life as our Lord and Maker truly desired for it to be? Is it not about living as though the Realm of God is as much at hand as out there “in the by and by?”

The Apostle Paul wrote: “...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 *Corinthians* 5:17-18.) In another place Paul wrote: “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye,...” (1 *Cor* 15:51-52).

Imagine what that means. Saul, who persecuted Christians and over saw the stoning of the Apostle Stephen, was so changed by the Resurrected Christ that, he, Saul, became an entirely new person. He became an advocate of the very faith he had persecuted and was willing to suffer for that faith.

Another fascinating story is that of the author of our popular hymn, “Amazing Grace,” John Newton. His spiritual, resurrection awakening, led him to renounce the slave trade in which he once participated. Newton, eventually became a preacher.

Imagine, if you can, resurrection as being something more wondrous than resuscitation. Imagine it as being the birth of an entirely new life. Resurrection is not about adaptation to one's circumstances. It's about transformation. Resurrection is a total transformation which lives in a new reality – a reality that touches the realm of God's unfathomable love and grace. Resurrection is about being transformed within one's self – transformed in our relationships with one another – transformed in how we relate to the world.

While I long to see the Jersey Shore restored, I know it won't be the same. I hope it will be resurrected into something far more wonderful than we previously knew. I pray that when, by God's grace and strength, we get through this time between the pain and loss Sandy caused our community – when we get through this time of rebuilding – we will not be the same place or people we were. I pray we'll be a transformed people – a people who have been more than resuscitated. We'll have been transformed – resurrected into something even more amazing than before.



Blessing of the Animals

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

Yes, our God made these precious animals great and small and we would like to invite all who have pets to the Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, April 27, 2013** at 10:00am in the Memorial Garden. Please make sure that your dog is on a leash and your cat is in a carrier. Turtles, rabbits, and goldfish are also welcome. We will have special treats for our little friends.

The Outreach Committee

House of Hope Café

The House of Hope is very blessed this month to welcome Wendy Schettig to the Cafe'. Wendy's own unique blend of folk/blues style music combined with her personal testimony and love for our Lord and Savior will make for a truly wonderful night of praise and worship.



Wendy will be joining us on **Saturday, April 20th**. The cafe' is open from 7:00 - 10:00. As always admission is free and so are the refreshments. Free will donations are accepted. Available for sale will be Wendy's latest CD entitled "Rise". Once you hear her, you will want her CD.

For more information, go to www.brickpresby.com
or to hear Wendy's music visit: <http://www.reverbnation.com/wendyschettig>

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Ladies, you are invited to attend the Monmouth Presbytery Spring Gathering at the Presbyterian Church in Tuckerton. Our Main speaker is Liza Jacobson from the Presbyterian Historical Society in Pa.

DATE: April 20, 2013
TIME: 9:10AM TO 2:00PM

*An interfaith event sponsored by the
Brick Clergy Association*

Bullying: It Can Happen to Anyone

*This is an interactive experience with the New Jersey Mental Health Players
exploring an issue that involves people of all ages from
children to senior adults and everyone in between.*

Sunday, April 21, 2:00 PM
Brick Presbyterian Church
111 Drum Point Road, Brick

Since 1978 the New Jersey Mental Health Players of the Mental Health Association in New Jersey has served New Jersey audiences by providing real-life situations surrounding issues that are part of our lives.

No charge

Voluntary donations/free-will offerings will be accepted at the door to support the activities of the nonprofit New Jersey Mental Health Players.

A Tent City Update....

Following is a synopsis prepared by the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness of events that unfolded on March 15, 2013 with regard to Tent City.

Under a settlement-in-principle announced in the (Ocean County Superior) Court , the Township of Lakewood would be barred from ejecting **any** of Tent City's current residents unless and until those residents are given housing -- not just a motel room for a night or two, but **safe and adequate housing for at least a full year...** As a first step, the parties would cooperate in a census of Tent City's residents as well as a screening of the residents for possible governmental benefits. At the same time, the litigation against Ocean County and its Board of Social Services will continue -- that is, at least until the County stops turning away large numbers of homeless men, women and children, and finally makes emergency shelter available in the County. In addition, the County continues to face a claim for more than \$2 million in damages alleged by the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, to which the County for years has "exported" large numbers of its homeless without fair reimbursement. Much work remains to be done, including finalization of the settlement-in-principle with Lakewood. However...we are making tremendous progress. The residents of Tent City are safe from ejection -- and, finally, moving closer to the housing that this case has always been about.



We look forward to the day when each of our brothers and sisters in Tent City can enjoy the comfort of basic shelter. In the meantime, we remain committed to them as we rejoice in this latest development.

Pentecost



We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday on **May 19th**. We are asking everyone to wear red which signifies the "fiery tongue" referred to in Acts 2:3. Please mark your calendars and wear red on **May 19th**.

Fundraising News

Ruby Tuesday: Thank you to everyone who participated in our Deacon's Fund fundraiser at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant!

Brickhouse: Our next fundraiser will be on **April 17th and 18th** at **Jack and Mike's Brickhouse Bar and Grille 979 Cedar Bridge Ave Brick NJ**. Come on out and support our Deacons fund. Have a great night out and 20% of your check will help our Deacons help us!

Stream Energy : Our Stream Energy fundraiser is up and running. If you switch your energy provider through us you will not only save money but Stream Energy will donate **\$4.00 per month** to our building expansion fund. Just bring us your current electric bill and we'll do the rest or you can log on to the churches account @ **brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz**. Look for our table at the church or contact us through the website, or contact either Jeff Law (732-779-4499 or Lawjeffreyl@gmail.com) or Patrice Law (732-779-7242) for more information. Come join the growing list of people who are saving money every month with Stream and **Please** don't switch your energy provider until you talk to us!



Memorial Bricks: If you would like to add your Memorial Brick to our walkway please pickup an order form at the church or download one off the church website and return it to the church office with a check for \$75.00 for a 4x8 or \$150.00 for a 8x8 and we'll add your brick to our beautiful walkway in the Memorial Garden.

Blue Claws: We will soon be selling tickets for our annual Blue Claws fundraiser. This year's game will be on **Friday July 26th** and this will be a **firework's night!** Tickets will again be \$10, and early purchases will put you in a drawing for All-Star Game tickets being held this year at First Energy Park. As usual we need to sell 250 tickets to make this a very successful fundraiser so please help us out by selling some tickets for us to your friends and co-workers. It will be a great night at First Energy Park!



Blue Claws Concession Stand: On **Friday July 12th** we will once again be looking for **20 volunteers** to work at First Energy Park for a very generous donation. Please help us out, sign up early, mark it on your calendar to come out and help us raise money for our Deacons fund! Please see Tim Towlen for more information on either of these fundraisers. Thank you!

Christian Education Information and Updates

CE questions? Contact Donna at christianeducation@brickpresby.com.

OUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP

The Christian Education committee is in need of new members. We generally meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30. We look forward to your suggestions and ideas. We are also in need of Sunday School teachers, substitutes and VBS volunteers. We cannot run effective programs without your support. Please consider becoming involved. Working with the children can be very rewarding.

4th & 5th Grade Camp Johnsonburg Retreat

Dates: May 31-June 1, 2013. Theme: My Family. We are in the planning stages of this retreat. If your child has an interest in attending, please let me know as soon as possible. We will definitely be in need of chaperones.

Continuing Education Awards Reminders

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2013. If accepted you will be notified by mail in May. Awards will be presented on June 16, 2013. If you need an application, please let me know.

Junior High Camp Johnsonburg Retreat

Dates: May 17-19, 2013. Theme: My Friends, My Family. Contact Kathy Kraynick for more information.

Confirmation 2013

The Confirmation dinner will be held Saturday, May 18, 2013 as the Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19th. Dinner invitations will be going out shortly, please RSVP so we know who will be in attendance.

JR HI NEWS

The Youth Group had an awesome March, we met to play games, make palm crosses and visit the elderly at Shorrock Gardens to deliver palm crosses on Palm Sunday. The Youth Groups will be having a bake sale on Easter Sunday to start raising funds for the underprivileged children Christmas gifts, we appreciate all the support the congregation gives us in this mission.

We are looking forward to Spring so we can bring our activities outside. We are planning laser tag and our retreat to Camp Johnsonburg not to mention outdoor fun and games.

Last year we had a light turnout for the retreat and had a really good time. Please encourage your child to participate in this awesome experience of faith and fellowship. It's a chance to build lasting friendships with other children that share the same faith and values. The retreat is scheduled for the weekend of May 17th, we will leave approx. 6:00pm on Friday and return approx. 2:00pm on Sunday.

More information will be forwarded by email but if you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Kraynick, Tom Fortier or Debbie Fortier.

A Special Thank You...

...to all who have donated food items or made monetary donations over the past months for the Food Pantry. Thanks to your generosity, the Deacons were able to assemble and distribute food baskets on behalf of our congregation to those in need in our community in the week prior to Easter.



Remember - your donations are also welcomed year round as the Food Pantry is available to meet emergency needs throughout the year.

Sleep and Blood Pressure

By Mehmet C. Oz, MD, and Michael F. Roizen, MD



Did you know there's a bedroom habit that's good for your blood pressure? No, we don't mean *that* habit (though it may help, too). We mean the habit of getting a nice, deep sleep. Nothing feels more rejuvenating. And it turns out that getting enough good sleep (7 to 8 hours, night after night) is a key to keeping your blood pressure low (aim for 115/75).

If you're barely getting 6 hours a night -- all lots of people manage -- just sleeping one more hour makes a big difference, because not getting that much increases your high blood pressure risk by a huge 37 percent. Why? When you don't get enough sleep, your nervous system goes into overdrive, boosting your stress hormones and throwing your whole body into high gear. Your pupils dilate, your heart rate speeds up, your digestion slows, and -- worse -- not only does your blood pressure spike but, over time, those stress hormones turn temporary spikes into permanent high blood pressure.

How is your heart health?

Think you can make up for missed ZZZs by sleeping in on the weekends? If only. Like your mortgage, sleep debt isn't easy to pay off. People who get just 6 hours on week nights, then crash for 10 hours on both Saturdays and Sundays, still show strong signs of sleep deprivation. You don't just feel groggy. Chronic lack of sleep is linked to everything from inflammation and depression to, yep, obesity. Lack of shut-eye throws your appetite hormones into a gimme-more mode, and affects blood sugar levels in ways that up the odds of big weight gains. Go to bed early...Tonight. !!

An Update on New Eyes for the Needy



The Stewardship and Mission Committee has been collecting reusable old plastic or metal framed eyeglasses, nonprescription sunglasses, hearing aids, costume jewelry and old watches (even broken!) to help support New Eyes For The Needy, Inc. First organized in 1932, New Eyes for the Needy is a New Jersey based nonprofit volunteer organization that recycles the above items and uses them to provide the gift of sight to the poor all over the United States and throughout the world.

Thank you for supporting this worthy effort! We will continue to collect these items in 2013. Please drop them off in the collection box located in the Narthex. For more information, contact Patrice Law.

FYI....

The Stewardship & Mission Committee donates funds to the Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ). CVCJ is a non-profit organization providing volunteers to assist seniors through numerous services. Volunteers make friendly visits, transport seniors for medical appointments, grocery shop, as well as other programs.



On April 7th from 1:00-4:00 at Toms River Intermediate East School on Hooper Avenue, CVCJ will be holding a Canine Variety/Fashion Show. Funds collected will go towards therapy dog training.

CVCJ is celebrating 20 years of service to nearly 10,000 Seniors who benefit from their programs. Thanks to the volunteers who give so selflessly of their time and their compassion to help others in need.