

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

July/August 2014

---

## A Pastor Reflects on Life's Brevity and Sacredness

I can't believe that it is mid-June and I am writing an article for the July-August Newsletter. As I type this, I am struck with how fast time seems to pass by. As a teenager, it seemed that when my parents told me to wait a few minutes for something that seemed like an impossible eternity. Some might say that my sense of time flying-by is the result of aging. I'll admit that it is more difficult to pretend I am 21 these days, so I pretend I am still 40. But even that was a score of years ago. Yet, I find as the years add on, I have a different perspective on life and the issues before us.

Perhaps that is in part because I have been blessed in ministry to see couples whose marriages I officiated raise their families. I've watched the children I baptized grow-up, go off to school, and then have their children baptized into the life of faith.

Maybe my perspective on time's fleeting nature is also a by-product of the many funerals I have officiated for people I knew and cared about – some who were family – some were well on in years – some frightfully younger than myself. When one sees your contemporaries, and those younger, pass from this life there is the realization of how precious the time we have together really is.

In many ways I consider all of these things a gift from the Lord in my life, as I reflect how much time and energy we mortals expend on things that polarize us from each other. I see from the passing of time how many positions we take in life on issues that are driven by fear – vanity – greed – self-righteousness.

More recently, the latest gun violence that led to the loss of life at yet another school out in Oregon is most upsetting to me. Many of us would like to think of schools as safe places for our children and grandchildren. However, the parade of gun violence and mayhem that seems to be sweeping our nation distresses me. The loss of any life is always tragic. The needless loss of life by gun violence in places that should be safe places is more than distressing.

I grew up in a world where hunting and fishing were, and still are, an important way life. While I consider myself a sportsman, I also realize that the polarizing positions of both the anti-gun and the pro-gun advocacy groups has accomplished little to really make our world safer. Both groups, it seems to me, need put aside self-righteousness and tactics of fear and come together to find and work on reasonable ways to reduce the violence that takes too many innocent lives. We need to address the issues of mental health, and yes, even spiritual health that contribute to a glorification of violence, death and destruction.

I cannot help but wonder if a secularized form of Christianity, that pulls adults and children away from houses of worship and the learning of healthy spiritual values is not a contributing factor. The biblical faith has much to say about those who live by the sword dying by the sword. Jesus modeled a life of grace that sought to bring people together, even as he sought to redeem our broken relationship with our Maker. As Jesus once wept over Jerusalem, I imagine him weeping with those who now mourn – and for a nation that can't seem to work together so we can live together in peace. Let us pray for a spiritual renewal first in individual lives, in our homes, and then in our nation.

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

We will commence our Summer Worship Services on July 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM. The services will be held at this time through August 31, 2014. There will be an informal service and picnic at the church on July 13, 2014 at 10:00 AM (due to construction at Windward Beach). There will also be an informal service in the Family Life Center on August 10, 2014 at 10:00 AM with refreshments following the service. Child care will be available for all the services, except for July 13, 2014 and August 10, 2014.



## CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR SUMMER SERVICES



A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish to provide child care during the Worship Services during the summer months. We expect that if you wish to avail yourself of this service, that you will wish to take your turn also. The sign-up sheet will be placed by the Child Care room. You don't need to have young children to enjoy working with them. Young people - Jr. and Sr. High School students - will be welcomed also. The only requirement is that you enjoy children. Thank you for helping!

## Volunteer Village

The Brick Presbyterian Church Volunteer Village will be hosting its second group of volunteers from Montoursville Presbyterian Church in Montoursville, PA. The group is made up of 25 men



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

and women who volunteered to participate in the restoration and rebuilding efforts at the Jersey Shore. They will be arriving on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and staying till Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Host Site Hospitality Committee is responsible for providing dinner Sunday night and breakfast Monday morning. However, we thought others in the Congregation might be interested in helping. So we are looking for bottled water and snacks they can take to their work sites and desserts for their evening meal at the church.

If you would like to donate something, please contact Frank Miterotonda (732-735-0826) for details.

## Constant Contact



We've been noticing that some of the emails we send out through Constant Contact are being "bounced" due to non-existent addresses. Rather than just taking you off the list, we'd like to update the email address if you've recently changed it. If you have, please let us know so we can update our records! Also, if you're currently NOT receiving the newsletter via email, please let us know your email address so you can! You can contact the church office with the information. Thank you!

**SAVE THE DATES OF**

**JULY 13, 2014**

**Brick Presbyterian Church's**

**Informal Service**

**And**

**Family Picnic Barbeque**

**In the Family Life Center of BPC**

**(Due to construction at Windward Beach)**

**Bring a friend or two, and yes,  
PLEASE bring a dish or two to share with everyone**

**AND**

**August 10, 2014**

**Informal Service in the Family Life Center  
Followed by Refreshments**

**Bring a friend!**

**A Word of Thanks...**

to Dan Kleban and Michael Kraynick for your many years of sharing your musical gifts with our bell choir. These two young men have quietly and faithfully supported our group for the last eight years! While they will be sorely missed, we pray for God's continued blessing in their chosen careers and endeavors.



## Fundraising News

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who has come out and supported our endeavors over the last six months. As we head into the summer months we will take a little break from our normal activities but thought we would give you a heads up as to what we have coming in the Fall.



1. Back by popular demand will be our **Mum sale**. We have 300 of the huge plants coming just like we had last year including 50 extra large ones.
2. We will be selling **Food For Thought Cards** again. In addition to the normal variety we had this spring this time we will have Christmas Cards as well. As with our last card sale we will receive a 1/3 percentage of the sales for our Deacons as well as an additional donation of .18 cents a card designated for our food pantry.
3. **Pencil In The Date** on November 22<sup>nd</sup> we will host our second Vendor/Craft show! Come on out and see our Family Life Center packed with vendors as we head into the holiday season.
4. **Bon Ton Community Days** coupon books will be back. Look for our table outside the FLC. Bon Ton sale days are November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>
5. Please look out for restaurant fundraisers - they'll be on the website as well as the bulletin.
6. As always we will continue to offer Stream Energy. Look for Patrice if you have any questions.

### Stream Energy: Are You Ready For The Summer?



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for our Stream Energy fundraiser! The good news is if you haven't already switched your electric provider, **it's not too late**. Also, we are excited to announce the addition of the natural gas opportunity. Now, whether you have already taken advantage of the savings with the electric, or you are new to the opportunity entirely, you can switch your natural gas and help the church! The summer months are well behind us but we still use electric and natural gas all year long. Regardless of your consumption Stream Energy will continue to donate **\$4.00 per month** for each **electric** customer and now an additional **\$1.50 per month** for each **natural gas** customer to our building expansion fund. Just bring us your current electric and/or gas bills and we'll do the rest, or you can log on to our account @ [brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz](http://brickpresbyterian.streampowerup.biz). Look for our table at the church, contact us through the church's website, or contact either Jeff Law (732-779-4499 or [Lawjeffrey1@gmail.com](mailto:Lawjeffrey1@gmail.com)) or Patrice Law (732-779-7242) for more information. Come join the growing list of people who are helping the church while saving money every month with Stream and **Please** don't switch your energy provider until you talk to us!

## Protect the ones you love - Drownings: The Reality

We all want to keep our children safe and secure and help them live to their full potential. Knowing how to prevent leading causes of child injury, like drowning, is a step toward this goal.

When most of us are enjoying time at the pool or beach, injuries aren't the first thing on our minds. Yet, drownings are the leading cause of injury death for young children ages 1 to 4, and three children die every day as a result of drowning.

Thankfully, parents can play a key role in protecting the children they love from drowning.



### Prevention Tips

**Learn life-saving skills.** Everyone should know the basics of swimming (floating, moving through the water) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

**Fence it off.** Install a four-sided isolation fence, with self-closing and self-latching gates, around backyard swimming pools. This can help keep children away from the area when they aren't supposed to be swimming. Pool fences should completely separate the house and play area from the pool.

**Make life jackets a "must."** Make sure kids wear life jackets in and around natural bodies of water, such as lakes or the ocean, even if they know how to swim. Life jackets can be used in and around pools for weaker swimmers too.

**Be on the look out.** When kids are in or near water (including bathtubs), closely supervise them at all times. Adults watching kids in or near water should avoid distracting activities like playing cards, reading books, talking on the phone, and using alcohol or drugs.

*Stay off your cell phone but have it handy for emergency!*

**Secondary drowning** can be difficult to recognize since the victim (this can apply to adults as well) appears to be ok right after a near-drowning event. Your child may breathe in a very small amount of water and seem like they have successfully expelled it through coughing. In secondary drowning the water may fill up some of the oxygen rich pores of the lungs, which reduces the ability to oxygenate blood as it passes through. The heart does not slow down significantly with this process but rather very very slowly so your child will still be able to talk and walk. The only symptoms may be a sudden change in personality or level of awareness as the blood oxygen level drops over time.

So if your child has experienced a near drowning experience (it can happen in as little water as a puddle or in the bathtub) watch for a sudden change of personality or energy level. You can save your child's life if you act quickly and get them medical treatment immediately.

*Prevention tips from CDC website: Secondary drowning from alternate research*

## Vacation Bible School 2014



VBS will be held on the following Wednesdays in July: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th from 6-8pm. There is no fee for VBS and you do not have to attend all four sessions. Come when you can, we are always happy to have you! If you have any questions, email [donnaschlatter@comcast.net](mailto:donnaschlatter@comcast.net) or call my cell 732-581-4911.