

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

June 2017

A New Season and Day is Emerging

A Pastor's Observation



In the fall the leaves on the trees drop to the ground. Leaves, if we let them remain, breakdown to replenish the soil in time providing nutrients to the soil from which the tree's roots are fed. Winter comes and many plants seem almost dead, dormant for a season. But then comes spring, new leaves emerge. Flowers begin to blossom. Song birds return. Baby ducklings can be seen in back water marshes.

Along the ocean's waters fisherman note the change of seasons with the migration of striped bass, blue fish and mackerel, along with the return of the laughing gulls. A wise spiritual sage once wrote: *"for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven..."* (Ecc. 3:1). And so it is. Just as the ocean tides ebb and flow from our beaches – high tide then low tide – so too are our lives and the life we share in common as a congregation of God's faithful.

In recent years we've known the winter season of life as we entrusted many of our members into God's everlasting care in Jesus Christ. We experienced the ebb of life's tides with those who moved to other locations. Some among us may have felt the bleakness of winter's season in personal life struggles and transitions.

But, as in the seasons of the earth, so too, the season of the spiritual life change. Winter gives way to spring and emerging new life and energy. Spring gives way to the joy of a new day in the sun. So, it is with our congregation, as I observe new energy and life emerging as a gift from God. This year we will be celebrating more baptisms than we have seen in some time. That's hope and energy for our Sunday school as parents fulfill their baptismal promises in the days and years before us.

Our stewardship and evangelism committees are building new and stronger links with the larger community where God has placed us. A new community resource fair is slated for early June, along with a pet blessing, and a major facelift to our church website has been contracted. Plans are underway to do a new church pictorial directory later this year. Our Deacons have had a large impact upon the lives of others in our community via their food baskets, and emergency relief efforts. Our worship life is witnessing the dedication and energy of volunteers and staff to keep things going as the search continues for a church organist/pianist and a handbell director. There has been a return to worship of some folk and new faces are appearing among us. Some members are talking about creating new small groups. Others are active in community service through Caregiver Volunteers, Community Emergency Response Team, Fire Departments, while still serving our congregation.

Surely, the Lord is bringing forth a new and emerging season for us. So let us seize the moment. Let us all pull together and see what the Lord may do with our individual and collective efforts. This is the day that the Lord has made, so let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Evangelism/Outreach

June 18th is *Catch a Friend Bring 'Em in Sunday.*

Invite a friend to have coffee with you!



Saturday, June 3rd
BPC Annual Blessing of the Pets
10 am on the front lawn!
(please note change of location)

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

Remember - all dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Rabbits, turtles and hamsters are welcome. If your pet cannot attend the service for any reason, bring a picture with you to hang on our special board designed just for them! Please include your name & address on the back of the picture.

And....even if you don't have your own furry friend to bless, please consider making a contribution that will bless the animals at Jersey Shore Animal Shelter. Also please watch for items to donate for the Jersey Shore Animal Shelter in the bulletin.

Prayer in the Garden

Let us be centered in prayer and come to the Prayer in the Garden on Sunday mornings beginning on June 4 at 8:10am and Wednesday evenings beginning on June 7 at 6:15pm.



Wear Red for Pentecost

Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday

One of the ways we as Christians observe Pentecost Sunday is by wearing the color red which signifies the "fiery tongue" referred to in Acts 2:3. This year, **Pentecost Sunday** is June 4th. We ask that you mark your calendars and **wear red** on **June 4th**.

Come Join Us at The Community Fair on Sunday, June 4th

Brick Presbyterian Church provides so many ministries and activities for our members and friends to enjoy. In addition to those that are hosted or financially supported by our own church, we are pleased to share our talents and/or space with other organizations that serve and improve the lives of our church family, our neighbors in the community, and the world at large.

Please join us on Sunday, June 4th for our Community Fair to learn more about the work of the committees in our church, the missions that our church supports, and some of the services available from other organizations in our community. **It will be held in the Family Life Center from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

By the way, the **Brick Police Department will have a safe drop off box at the Community Fair to collect expired and unused medications.** This is a good and safe way to get rid of old, expired and unused medications. You do not need to remove labels. Just bring the medications and drop them in the designated box that the Police Department will provide that day.

We hope to see you at the Fair!



FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who came out to our April fundraiser at **Urban CoalHouse** and also the **Antique Appraisal** event in May. Your support is always so appreciated as we raise funds for various needs within the church.

LongHorn Steakhouse

LongHorn Steakhouse will be hosting a fundraiser for us on **Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13** at their location on **Route 70 in Lakewood**. Lunch, dinner and takeout will be included and LongHorn Steakhouse will donate 10% of the total sales to Brick Presbyterian Church. You can enjoy a delicious meal while supporting BPC, so please pick up a flyer/coupon to present to your server. You can download the flyer by going to the fundraising page. ***Bon Appetit!***

Stream Energy

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!*



Confirmation Sunday is June 11, 2017

ALSO it will be the last day of Sunday school for this year!!

Teacher and Youth Recognition

Please join us during the coffee hour on **June 11th** to honor our Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for dedicating their time and talents to the children of our church. We will also be celebrating the students who have had excellent attendance and those who have been dedicated members of the Junior Praise Team and Acolyte Program.

Vacation Bible School 2017



VBS will be held on Sunday mornings in August at 10:00 am in the Family Life Center. The program will be geared for children ages three years old through 5th grade, but older students are welcome to attend and/or volunteer to help out. There is no fee for VBS and no pre-registration is required. Our goal is to keep the children connected to the church and their Sunday school friends and to give parents and grandparents the opportunity to focus on worship.

➤ **For additional information, please contact - Donnaschlatter@comcast.net**

Summer Worship Schedule

We will commence our **Summer Worship Hours on July 2, 2017 at 10:00A.M.** The services will be held through September 3, 2017. There will be two informal worship services in the Family Life Center on July 9 and August 13, 2017 with refreshments following the services. *Child Care will be available for all the services except July 9 and August 13.*



Summer Child Care

A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish to provide child care during the Worship Services for the summer months. We expect that if you wish to avail yourself of this service you will also wish to take your turn. 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. Senior citizens and Junior/Senior High School students are also welcome. The only requirement is that you enjoy children.

Thank You for helping!



CWS Tools: Empowering Families, Strengthening Communities



Church World Service (CWS) affirms the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future by meeting them right where they are, and helping them to create solutions they can maintain and build on. Tools are among the many ways they make that happen.

- Seeds and gardening implements are a critical element of ending hunger by enabling families and communities to achieve food security.
- When water must be carried miles from its source to someone's home, it can spill or be polluted by dirt or insects but jerry cans ensure that water makes it into homes without contamination.
- The gift of a water pump to a community means that it will have access to safe water for drinking, cooking, bathing and more.

These are just a few examples of the tools provided through Church World Service (CWS) as it works to build a world where there is enough for all. **On Father's Day, June 18th, a special offering will be taken. Look for the special Tools offering envelope in the pews on June 11th and in your bulletin on June 18th.** Your gift to the Tools offering will help to provide improved food security, clean water, better nutrition, extra income, and hope for families worldwide.

The Stewardship and Mission Committee



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING!

Our donations to One Great Hour of Sharing in 2017 totaled \$1,149.25. Our gifts will support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People as they work in more than 100 countries helping to improve the lives of people who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. *Thank you for generously sharing God's love with our neighbors in need.*

GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons held their annual Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 10th. Thank you to everyone who donated – 31 units were received! This represents a close record! Also thanks to all who helped behind the scenes to make this drive a success.



Please continue to make donations to the BPC Food Pantry. We need to stock up and are currently in need of all types of nonperishable foods.

Some Needed Items Include:

Canned fish, such as tuna and salmon	Dry or packaged milk
Canned meats, such as chicken and turkey	Peanut butter/other nut butters
Rice	Canned beans
Canned vegetables	Canned soups
Boxed pastas	Canned fruit
Boxed mashed potatoes	Dry cereals
Oatmeal	

Please remember to save and bring in your empty coffee cans for the Deacons to use to carry their flowers for delivery every Sunday. *Thank you!*

ACTIVE MILITARY DONATIONS

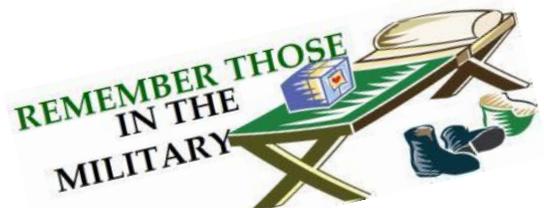
The Deacons support members of our Armed Forces by delivering donations from our congregation to American Recreational Military Services. Items are assembled into care packages that are distributed to our service men and women. Please continue to bring in items.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR OUR ACTIVE MILITARY:

Chap Stick	Q-Tips (sm. packs)	Razors	Eye moisture drops
Socks (white or green)	Protein Bars	Mouthwash	Toothbrushes
Granola/Cereal Bars	Hard Candy	Batteries	Tissues
Foot Powder	Gum/Breath Mints	Cookies	Microwave Foods
Popcorn	Suntan Lotion	Writing Paper	Pens, Pencils
Used Cell Phones	Cough Drops	Vitamins	Shaving Cream
Wipes	Deodorant		

Coffee packets/tea bags
Small powered drink mixes (to add to water bottles)
Socks (white or green)

*All items should be medium or small in size.
No pump type bottles.*



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS, THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS. GOD BLESS YOU!