

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

Jul/Aug 2011

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## Turning the Page to a New Chapter: Pastor Doug's Thoughts

It's been over 15 years of praying, listening, discerning, planning, and then building. First, it was praying, "Lord, give us a dream of what you want us to do?" As in all prayer and conversation that meant listening. It meant listening to and for the Spirit of the Lord – listening to the voice of God speaking through the members and friends of the congregation. Listening gave way to discernment. Just what did we hear? Did we hear what was really said?

From discernment emerged a dream for a new church facility that would be useful for a variety of purposes. The building had to be accessible and useful for young and old alike. It was to be a place for fellowship events, for youth activities, for church dinners, for ministry outreach, and things yet to be seen.

Then, there was the planning. In biblical fashion that kept in mind Luke 14:28, there was cost counting. What could we afford? How will this get paid off? And, how does good stewardship and cost containment refine the dream. That took a lot of prayer, designing and redesigning.

From the planning came the joy of ground breaking in May 2010. Over the next 13 months emerged a wonderful new structure, with a fantastic kitchen, a huge multi-purpose room, a platform for concerts and plays, a floor for dancing, volleyball, etc., and an improved entry into the church.

The building we've just dedicated on June 26<sup>th</sup> is a real tribute to what God can do with a people who come together in a common faith, commitment and purpose. This great project was built upon the faith of our congregations founders 110 years ago – upon those who dared to buy land when many thought it foolish – who built a church on Drum Point Road – and, later expanded it in the late 1970s. This new building symbolizes what God's people can accomplish working together in committed faith and common purpose. I cannot say enough good things about the monumental effort of our Building Expansion Committee, the Fund Raising Committees, and the many people who worked long and hard through the years to make our new facility a brick and mortar reality.

But, now that we have this wonderful facility, we must with equal prayer and discernment, make sure we remain faithful to the Lord in using it to build up the Body of Christ – in serving the needs of this congregation, yes. But, also in serving Christ's purposes by strengthening our youth ministry, in offering outreach programs that address local needs, in forming partnership with non-profit groups that benefit the community, in offering spiritual music and drama programs that convey the gospel message.

We may wish to say our work is done, having constructed the building. But now we must use it to build our ministry, as we begin a new chapter. We must pay off our debt. We must joyously and wisely use this addition as tool that blesses our congregation, our community and brings glory to God. I'm sure you are as anxious as I to see what wonderful things may blossom in the life of our congregation's ministry as together we work to use our new hall for its intended purposes.

Let me say to each of you, whatever part you played in making this day come about, **WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS! See you at church, Pastor Doug**

**SAVE THE DATES OF**

**JULY 10, 2011**

**Brick Presbyterian Church's**

**Outdoor Service**

**And**

**Family Picnic Barbeque**

**At Windward Beach off Princeton Ave.**

**Great Food, Beautiful Scenery**

**Bring a friend or two, Don't forget your chairs and yes,  
PLEASE bring a dish or two to share with everyone**

**AND**

**August 14, 2011**

**Outdoor Service on the Front Lawn  
Followed by Refreshments**

**Bring a friend and a chair!**

*In case of inclement weather possibilities please check with the  
church office that morning or check our website at  
[www.brickpresby.com](http://www.brickpresby.com)*



## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

We will commence our Summer Worship Services on June 26, 2011 at 10:00 AM. The services will be held at this time through September 4, 2011. Weather permitting there will be a service and picnic at Windward Beach on July 10, 2011 at 10:00 AM (no service at Brick Presbyterian Church, Drum Point Road). There will also be a service on the Front Lawn of the church on August 14, 2011 at 10:00 AM with refreshments following the service. Child care will be available for all the services, except for July 10, 2011.



## 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.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> @ 5:05 PM**

**LAKWOOD BLUE CLAWS**



The fundraising committee is now selling tickets for the Lakewood Blue Claws baseball game being held the evening of August 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:05 pm. This is a Sunday night game and that means kids eat free! Tickets will be \$10.00 per person. Look for our table in the Narthex for tickets and information. This promises to be a fun night for our church family, so please pencil in the date and check the church's website for updates.

We have committed to the purchase of 250 tickets. To make this a success we will have to sell all of them. Please consider helping us out, maybe by buying extra tickets for coworkers, friends, relatives who might enjoy a night at a ball game. Some other possibilities could be to buy a block of 5 or 10 tickets and selling them on your own, asking other organizations you're involved with to buy tickets from us rather than at the game.

For an additional fundraising opportunity, we will be looking for volunteers, ages 18 and older, to work the concession stands at four Blue Claws games. The game dates are August 19, 20, 21, and 26. If we supply five people per night, for each of the four nights (for a total of 20 volunteers), our church will receive **\$750.00** toward our building fund. Please help us meet this challenge while having fun, too! Look for further information in the Narthex or on the church's website ([www.brickpresby.com](http://www.brickpresby.com)).

## A View from the Deacons Bench

Come and have a seat with us for a few moments on the Deacons Bench. It's a place where you can sit beside us, ponder the good things that the Lord has made possible through us, and imagine the even greater things that can happen if we allow God's Spirit to ignite our imaginations.



Do you see the flowers? What an expression of God's beauty and how sweet the fragrance! It's so wonderful to see them in our sanctuary each Sunday and even more wonderful to see the smiles when they are delivered to our members and friends as a symbol of God's care and our remembrance of them during times of difficulty or other special times in their lives.

Did you see that gentleman heading into the narthex a few moments ago with some groceries to stock the food pantry? How wonderful to know that they will be put to good use - perhaps by a family who has suffered a job loss, by folks whose resources have been sapped by a medical crises, by a working family who just can't earn enough to make ends meet, by a single parent struggling to get by from day to day, by someone whose home for now is nothing more than a tent in the woods.

As we sit here, it's relaxing to sit and listen to the water tumbling down the rocks in the fountain. The sight and sound of the water soothe our soul but we also know that water is needed to sustain life. It's so gratifying to be able to use some of the donations to the Deacons Fund to purchase and bring much needed drinking water to our homeless brothers and sisters in Lakewood. They have been so thankful to receive it along with the eggs, grocery items and donated clothing.



Did you see that little girl skipping past us? Not long ago, she was very ill and dependent on blood products to aid in her recovery. Dozens of people recently passed this bench on their way into our church building to donate at our annual blood drive. What a practical way to share the gift of life!



And did you notice the mail carrier passing by us a while ago with a handful of cards and notes being sent out to members and friends who can't be here with us on Sunday? We don't want them to think that they are forgotten. They are in our hearts and our prayers.

It's good to sit here and have some time to daydream. The power of the Son really warms and energizes us. Speaking of warmth, it's great to remember the sense of warmth and care that we brought to others throughout the year when we delivered the lovingly made lap robes and prayer shawls to those in the nursing home or recuperating from illness. It's likely that those in the armed forces are getting a similar feeling when they open the care packages stocked with items donated by our church family.

It's time to go but thank you for sharing a few moments on the bench with us. We welcome your support more than you know and deeply appreciate the resources that you provide. One last thing - don't be afraid to share your dreams of ministry with us. We are trusting the Spirit to continue working with and through us all!



## Humor



Humor is infectious. The sound of roaring laughter is far more contagious than any cough, snuffle, or sneeze. When laughter is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness and intimacy. In addition to the domino effect of joy and amusement, laughter also triggers healthy physical changes in the body. Humor and laughter strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain, and protect you from the damaging effects of stress. Best of all, this priceless medicine is fun, free, and easy to use.

Laughter is strong medicine for mind and body.

Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, pain, and conflict. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded, focused, and alert.

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships, and supporting both physical and emotional health.

### **Laughter is good for your health**

- **Laughter relaxes the whole body.** A good, hearty laugh relieves physical tension and stress, leaving your muscles relaxed for up to 45 minutes after.
- **Laughter boosts the immune system.** Laughter decreases stress hormones and increases immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, thus improving your resistance to disease.
- **Laughter triggers the release of endorphins,** the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain.
- **Laughter protects the heart.** Laughter improves the function of blood vessels and increases blood flow, which can help protect you against a heart attack and other cardiovascular problems.

**The Health Ministry Team wishes you a safe & healthy summer.**

**Please remember to use the sunscreen  
& hopefully find lots of humor in your daily life!**

*A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill!"*

## **Did You Know???**



...that one of the ministries that we Brick Presbyterians support is the Medical Benevolence Foundation?

One of the earliest international endeavors of the Presbyterian Church in America was a response to a call from the Nestorian Church in Iran in 1836 for evangelists. Many years later the evangelists realized that in order to fulfill their mission they needed to service **all** the needs of the people, spiritual and medical; thus the Medical Benevolence Foundation was founded.

For the last 40 plus years the foundation has provided preventative and curative care in Jesus' name. Through the generosity of PC (USA) churches and members, they have been able to supply missionaries, ship medicine and equipment, build facilities, and pray for medical missions.

The country of Haiti has felt the effects of the MBF where medical special needs children were supplied with hearing aids, crutches, and many other necessary devices. Kenya also received assistance in providing medications for the treatment of AIDS and other diseases.

The goal of the Medical Benevolence Foundation is to help others have whole, fully healthy and meaningful lives, thanks to God's healing love in Jesus. The mission of the MBF is captured in this phrase: "Producing miracles through medical mission".

*Excerpted from "Mission Year Book for Prayer and Study"  
by your Mission Committee*

## **VBS**



VBS registration forms are now available in the Narthex. VBS will be held July 25<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have a good response this year and there will be a good turnout of both the children and the volunteers.