

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

June 2012

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## “Milestones are but Stepping Stones” Pastor Doug’s Musings

May and June are full of celebrations. With school graduations we celebrate the completion of studies leading to a diploma, attesting to a level of accomplishment, or one’s readiness to advance to another level of schooling or a career. This is true whether it is a graduation from pre-school, grade school, or from high school, vocational school or college. Each of these celebrations gladdens the heart of student, parent and grandparents. We rejoice in what was learned and accomplished.

Those who graduate from one level of schooling to another know the more we learn, the more we realize how much more there is to learn. Education has a way of affirming us and leading us to a sense of awe. A professor at Princeton use to say, “It is amazing how many things we think to be true aren’t as we think.”

History reveals the insight of that comment. There was a time people thought the world was flat. Then, Columbus sailed across the Atlantic and made it back to Spain demonstrating a new understanding. For centuries it was thought the sun rotated around the earth until scientists like Copernicus and Galileo demonstrated the earth was not the center of the universe.

The Apostle Paul seemed to grasp our need for continuous education as he wrote in 1 Cor. 13 that we “only know in part.” He went on to say, “Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

Likewise, many people look at the spiritual life as one of milestones. There’s baptism, Sunday school and then confirmation. Some go on to study the Bible in college and seminary. Each of these events is to be celebrated. In them we celebrate the growth of our faith and religious life with the Lord. However, we must keep in mind that church school and confirmation are not intended to be the end of our spiritual education. The truth is these celebrated milestones are really stepping stones in the development of our spiritual understanding for faithful living and a growing relationship with the Lord. The Psalmist understood that when one knows the Lord, one realizes there is still much more to know saying; “How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! Were I to count them, how vast is the sum of them! They would outnumber the grains of sand” (Ps. 139:17-18).

It is important that we allow God to continue to teach us through the church and ongoing Bible study so we can better understand what God desires and of how we are to live in the world. None of us would think of flying a jet plane without training, less we risk disaster. Neither would we want someone operating on us, who did not keep up with the latest advances in medical knowledge. So it is we must continue to invest ourselves in a growing knowledge and understanding of the Bible if our relationship with the Lord is going to grow and our lives are going to remain faithful.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SAY: "IT'S TIME FOR A PICNIC!"



Summer begins on Wednesday, June 20 - the perfect time for the annual indoor "picnic," (so we don't have to worry if it rains). All women, members and friends - and friends of friends are welcome, too - are invited to join the party at 12 Noon in the Family Life Center. Hot dogs and fixin's will be supplied. We invite everyone to bring a side dish, salad, fruit or dessert. The quarterly local mission offering will be received and sent directly to Providence House for their ongoing efforts to offer support to victims of domestic violence. Please join us to welcome summer with fun, fellowship, and always good food!

### HELP NEEDED!

As some of you are aware, we've started sending out our newsletter via email. At this time, we have no plans to discontinue the printed version. We have also been emailing other information out – about fundraisers and other events we have planned – both for our congregation and for the community. We **NEED** your help in a few ways:



If we don't have it already, please send your email address to [brick.presbyterian@verizon.net](mailto:brick.presbyterian@verizon.net) or [webmaster@brickpresby.com](mailto:webmaster@brickpresby.com)

If your group is having an event and you'd like to get the word out, make up a flyer with the basic info or just send the basic info to [dg.chase@yahoo.com](mailto:dg.chase@yahoo.com) or [webmaster@brickpresby.com](mailto:webmaster@brickpresby.com).

If you get an email about an event we're sponsoring, forward the email to any of your friends who may be interested.

*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard,  
so that you also may have fellowship with us." 1 John 1:3 NIV.*



### House of Hope Café *Feeding Body, Soul and Spirit*

Saturday, June 9, 2012  
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
Featuring Waiting for the Flood  
and the BPC Music Ministry

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

We will commence our Summer Worship Services on July 1, 2012 at 10:00 AM. The services will be held at this time through September 2, 2012. Weather permitting, there will be a service and picnic at Windward Beach on July 8, 2012 at 10:00 AM (no service at Brick Presbyterian Church, Drum Point Road). There will also be an informal service in the Family Life Center on August 12, 2012 at 10:00 AM with refreshments following the service. Child care will be available for all the services, except for July 8, 2012 and August 12, 2012.



### Jesus Welcomes Children in Worship & We Do Too!

We want to encourage you to come to the Worship Services and bring your children with you during the summer. In Mark 10:14 Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God".(RSV) We are a loving congregation and love our children. They are our future. We recognize that children are not always able to sit quietly for a long period of time. That's understandable, but let's teach them that God loves them and we do too. Let us all be more like Jesus and welcome everyone - young and old - to worship with us.



Let the little children  
come to me....

LUKE 10:16

### 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!



### OOPS!

The Mount Misery Retreat for June 8<sup>th</sup> on the enclosed calendar was taken from old information. Please disregard notice of that event as we were unable to book the event.

## Pet Blessing Was Joyful Event

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> we held our first ever Blessing of the Pets Service in the church courtyard. Members of the Evangelism Committee provided water and treats for the pets that were brought by their owners to be blessed by the pastor, and Christy Tompkins played the guitar. There were approximately 35 people along with a good number of dogs that were present, and all got along very well. We were pleased to see some folk from outside our congregation's membership bring pets to be blessed. It now looks like this was the first annual Pet Blessing, with more events to follow. When all was said and done, everyone had a wonderful time and we developed some ideas for making the next service even better.



## Brick Presbyterians Are Alive!



We're a church that's alive and moving forward. As many of you know we have already hosted two very successful **House of Hope Café** events with the next one scheduled for **June 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 p.m.** featuring "Waiting for the Flood" a group from the Building on the Rock Community Church in Manchester – and our own Zack Slater in charge of the sound system.

Our church has, thanks to the efforts of Kathy Kenny, now started making our newsletter and other information available via **Constant Contact**, so those of you on-line won't have to wait three weeks to get your newsletters.

In addition, Brick Presbyterian Church is now a member of the **Brick Chamber of Commerce**. We also now have a link to our church's website from Brickonline. We have also noticed a mild increase in traffic to our website and [Facebook](#) pages.

Likewise, we want to thank our **faithful crews** of the **Fellowship and Coffee Fellowship Committees** who manned the kitchen for our Pancake Breakfast last month – and our coffee hours every third Sunday of the month.

And let us not forget the wonderful work being done by our **Health Ministry Team**, providing seminars and training this past month related to Preventing Falls and living with Alzheimer's.

**Attention Ruling Elders!**  
**The July Session Meeting will be on**  
**July 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM**

## YOUTH RECOGNITION

Don't forget to join us on June 17<sup>th</sup> between services in the Family Life Center for Youth Recognition Sunday. In addition to this being the last day of Church School for the year, Scholarships will be awarded and we will be recognizing youth for attendance, choirs, and Acolytes. There will also be a Teacher Appreciation. **This is also the last day of Sunday School until September.**



## Vacation Bible School 2012



VBS will be held this summer on the following Wednesdays: July 11th, July 18th, and July 25th. The hours will be from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm for students in Kindergarten through Sixth grade. Please send your child with a lunch. Additional snacks and drinks will be provided. Registration forms are available in the Christian Education office and in the Church office. Deadline to register will be July 1, 2012. Volunteers are needed. Please contact me for more information or to volunteer at [christianeducation@brickpresby.com](mailto:christianeducation@brickpresby.com).

## Senior High Youth Group

Looking forward to our next event.

The 99.1FM Celebration @ Great Adventure  
Saturday, June 2, 2012

We will meet at the church at 9am.

Any questions, please contact Susan at [srhi@brickpresby.com](mailto:srhi@brickpresby.com)



## The Deacons Invite You to Be an Active Part of Our Ministry!

Brick Presbyterian Church represents so many things - a home away from home in which to worship our Lord, to learn more about our faith, to share time with fellow believers, to enjoy the friendship, comfort and blessings that come to us when we connect with members and friends in our congregation. It is no wonder that those who have problems with transportation miss the opportunity to be physically present at worship services. It is for this reason that a new transportation ministry has been established. We are developing a base of drivers who are willing to provide transport for those in need of a ride to church. Your level of service will depend on your availability and location. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact the church office or Joan at [transportation@brickpresby.com](mailto:transportation@brickpresby.com).



On another note, each month we partake of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Deacons share the responsibility with the Elders for distributing communion to our participants. Once a Deacon has been ordained, the opportunity for serving communion remains for a lifetime. If you have been ordained at any time in the past as a Deacon and would like to assist in the serving of communion, please contact Tim Towlen via e-mail to [deacons@brickpresby.com](mailto:deacons@brickpresby.com).

## Tent City Relief

On Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>, members of our junior and senior high youth groups and adult volunteers spent the afternoon assisting the residents of Tent City in numerous ways. We should be proud of these folks as they have hit the ground running doing God's work among his people who are struggling. May God continue to bless each of them and the work they are doing.



Minister Steve has informed us that the people of Tent City are facing more political struggles with the local government folks. We ask that each of you hold Tent City up in prayer and also pray for the opposing forces to ask the Savior to open their hearts and minds to the needs of God's people in Tent City. We should always remember that circumstances can change and anyone of us could be living in Tent City.

## 2012 Blood Drive – Thank You!

The Board of Deacons are pleased to report we collected 28 pints of blood at the 2012 Blood Drive at BPC on Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to our Health Ministry Team for their support during the drive and a special thanks to everyone who was able to give the gift of life. We know the Savior will bless your giving!

Kristin and George  
2012 Blood Drive Co-Chairs

*I believe God will bless each of you abundantly for your giving to your fellow man!*

## Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection



Skin cancer is the most common of all cancer types. More than 3.5 million skin cancers are diagnosed each year in the United States. That's more than all other cancers combined. The number of skin cancer cases has been going up over the past few decades.

The good news is that you can do a lot to protect yourself and your family from skin cancer, or to catch it early enough so that it can be treated effectively. Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. Much of this exposure comes from the sun, but some may come from man-made sources, such as indoor tanning lamps.

Finding possible skin cancers doesn't require any x-rays or blood tests – just your eyes and a mirror. If skin cancer does develop, finding it early is the best way to ensure it can be treated effectively.

### How do I protect myself from UV rays?

It isn't possible or practical to avoid sunlight completely, and it would be unwise to reduce your level of activity to avoid the outdoors because physical activity is important for good health. But too much sunlight can be harmful. There are some steps you can take to limit your exposure to UV rays.

Some people think about sun protection only when they spend a day at the lake, beach, or pool. But sun exposure adds up day after day, and it happens every time you are in the sun. "Slip! Slop! Slap!... and Wrap" is a catch phrase that can help you remember the 4 key steps you can take to protect yourself from UV rays:

- **Slip on a shirt**
- **Slop on sunscreen.** When using an SPF 30 sunscreen and applying it thickly, you get the equivalent of 1 minute of UVB rays for each 30 minutes you spend in the sun. So, 1 hour in the sun wearing SPF 30 sunscreen is the same as spending 2 minutes totally unprotected. People often do not apply a thick enough layer of sunscreen, so the actual protection they get is less. Check the expiration date on the sunscreen container to be sure it is still effective
- **Slap on a hat.**
- **Wrap on sunglasses to protect the eyes and sensitive skin around them.**

These steps complement each other, and they provide the best protection when used together.

For more information please check out [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

## **Proud to Be a Brick Presbyterian** **In the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.**



Did you know that our denomination supports through prayer, visitation, and retreats **168 Military Chaplains; 19 Full-time V.A. Chaplains** and 46 Part-Time & Volunteer Chaplains with the V.A.? Did you know that we have 53 Seminarians in the Military Chaplain Candidate Program and **37 Civil Air Patrol Chaplains?**

Did you know that our congregation holds the **Charter for Boy Scout Troop 60**, and that one of our troop's scouts just achieved the **rank of Eagle?** Only about 12% of all Boy Scouts are so honored, and we have had a number of them from our congregation's membership. Did you know that we have a young scout in our congregation working towards his Eagle Rank, helping to repaint the Fellowship Hall where our outside groups meet?

Do you realize that we have several members of our congregation serving as care givers who provide transportation and other support services to the elderly in our area as part of our ministry in support of Caregivers of Central Jersey? In fact, some of our own members and friends benefit from this ministry.

Did you know that Presbyterians Today, our denominational magazine was voted by the Associated Press as the best denominational magazine in the U.S.A. and Canada?

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....**

The Pioneer Fire Hose and Breton Woods Fire Departments receive donated funds on an annual basis from our Church. Both Fire Departments serve the residents of District #1 in Brick which covers the southernmost half from Dover Township to West of the Lakewood border, as well as a mile of oceanfront bordered by Mantoloking. Our donation helps in training, upkeep, and the necessary cost of operation. Without these two local Fire Companies, many residents would not only lose their homes, but their lives as well.



Just as important, we financially support the Brick First Aid Squad and the Community First Aid Squad. Both are a volunteer non-profit organization providing emergency medical services to the residents of Brick. Again, people would lose their lives if not for the dedication of these men and women.

### **POSTPONED!**



On the printed calendar in this newsletter, we mistakenly have the Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This event has been postponed till Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## DID YOU KNOW ???

...this year celebrates the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of international mission by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. *Presbyterian World Mission brings God's global family together to heal the wounds of poverty and violence, and proclaim God's saving love in Jesus Christ.* (General Assembly Mission Council) The work of Presbyterian missionaries have started churches, hospitals, and schools on every continent. Brick Presbyterian Church sponsors a missionary working in Haiti, Mark Hare. We can also be a part of World Mission through the following suggestions:



**Pray for Missions**

### **Make this P.L.E.D.G.E. with World Mission**

**PRAY** each day with and for mission workers, for our global partners, and the people they serve  
**LEARN** about mission workers' ministries  
**ENCOURAGE** people to become long-term mission workers  
**DISCERN** where and how you can better serve God by serving others in mission work  
**GIVE** your time, love, energy, gifts and financial contributions  
**ENGAGE** in faithful and effective mission with mission workers by advocating for justice, sharing the good news of God's love, and seeking reconciliation in the world

(For additional information please see the web site noted below.)

Excerpted from <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/world-mission/>

From your Mission Committee

## **June Fundraising News**



Thank you to everyone who supported our last two fundraisers at The Tuscan House restaurant and our Blue Claws game. We hope you enjoyed these events and that you will continue to support our events in the future. Please keep an eye out in the Narthex and on the website to see what we've got planned next.

For those of you who are interested in other Blue Claws games please stop by our table for info, tickets as well as signing up for our August 10<sup>th</sup> service night at the Blue Claws.

For those of you who have fundraising ideas and would like to be a part of our fun informal committee please consider joining us on June 6<sup>th</sup> @7:00 pm. we'd love to have you or see our fundraising link on the church website to contact us.