

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

May 2012

A Pastor's Eastertide Reflection on Being Church

There is something about spring time that lifts the soul. Perhaps it is warm sunny days. Maybe it is seeing the dogwood trees in bloom and flowers emerging from winter's deep sleep to reveal their radiant fresh colors. Or it might be the sight of song birds returning from their winter migration, singing their early morning songs to the glory of God. Whatever the reason, spring is a time filled with hope.

I think it no accident that we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord during the springtime. The seasons of Easter and spring seem to be a compliment to each other. With Christ rising from the tomb of death, we take hope that sin and death do not have a permanent choke hold on those who have chosen to accept God's gift of forgiveness by choosing to live in a committed relationship with the Lord and the body of Christ (the Church). St. Paul writes that if anyone is in Christ that person becomes a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old ways of living and being are let go of and a new way of life begins.

This new way of life doesn't always happen instantaneously (though for some it seems to happen in an instant, as with Saul's conversion on the way to Damascus as we read in Acts 9). For many people, embracing the new life Christ offers as the Risen Lord takes time. Jesus appeared before his disciples seven times in the gospels, and while they saw, and acknowledged him, it wasn't until Pentecost when the Spirit grabbed their spirits, that they translated their knowledge of Christ Risen into living as Resurrection people.

Sometimes churches, like people, can acknowledge that there is a God and that Jesus is their Risen Lord, but have trouble translating that awareness into a communal life that reflects a dynamic relationship with a living and Risen Christ. While some say the mainline church is a dying institution, I see signs of rebirth and new life here at Brick Presbyterian Church. I see evidence that the Spirit of God that was in the Risen Lord is moving about in the midst of our congregation.

Where is the evidence you may ask? It's in a growing involvement and growing relationship a number of our people have taken in ministering with the people of "Tent City." The signs of new life are seen in the emerging ministry known as the "House of Hope Café" coffee house ministry that seeks creative ways to celebrate Christ's love and reach out to others. One can look at how there are some new faces appearing in our midst at worship – at how we are willing to do new things in order to reach folk and invite them into a relationship with the Lord and the Body of Christ, as in our "Blessing of the Pets service." And let us not forget that we are seeking to share God's compassion in our worship services through the "Rite of Wholeness and Well-being" once each month as we seek to make worship and prayer more personal. These things and others give me reason to think that the Spirit of the Risen Lord is alive and at work in the life of Brick Presbyterian Church.

Being a church member is about more than belonging to an institution on paper. It's about being in a living relationship with the Risen Lord. It's about more than saying "I'm spiritual" or "I believe in God." It's about living under Christ's rule, submitting to service of the Risen Lord and being the Body of Christ in the world today.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28-29).

Brick Presbyterian Church

111 Drum Point Road, Brick, New Jersey 08723

Invites Pets Owners & their Pets

To a Blessing of the Pets Service

10 A.M. Saturday, May 5th

In the Church Courtyard

(Leash Laws are to be observed)



Visit us at www.brickpresby.com or on Facebook



**The Fellowship Committee
will be having a Pancake Breakfast
between services on May 6.**

Fall Prevention Workshop

On Wednesday, May 9th, The Center on Healthy Aging will be presenting a free program on fall prevention at 1:00 pm right here in our Family Life Center. The program is called **S.A.F.E.** (*Stopping Accidental Falls in Elders*). Please come to this workshop to have a free Fall Screening assessment. This workshop also includes a demonstration on how to get up from a fall. We will be having refreshments. Hope to see you there!



Wear Red for Pentecost

PENTECOST

We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday on May 27th. 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 27th.

From the Deacons Bench



As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, we also rejoiced in the opportunity we had to share our congregation's care and concern for those in need of food assistance at the Easter holiday. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide twenty-four food baskets to families in our area, as well as a ham and turkey that became mainstays of an Easter meal shared by our homeless brothers and sisters in Lakewood. Though the holidays have passed, please know that we continue to welcome donations to the food pantry for use in meeting emergency needs of those in our community.

The chancel flowers are delivered each week by a Deacon to someone who could use a little cheer and a reminder that we are holding that person in our hearts and prayers. If you have empty metal coffee cans, please consider donating them to us for use in transporting our beautiful floral arrangements to a grateful recipient.

Tent City Relief Committee News

On Sunday April 15th, our Committee hosted a special coffee hour between services featuring Minister Steve Brigham of Tent City. He shared with those present some ideas as to what we can do for the people living in Tent City. He also thanked our Congregation for its on-going support and the Tent City community appreciates the food and clothing we have shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ. For additional information on helping the people of Tent City or joining our Committee, please contact Committee Chair Jean at tentcity@brickpresby.com. Please continue to hold the people of Tent City and those who support them in your daily prayers.



2012 BPC Blood Drive



The Board of Deacons, in conjunction with the Health Ministry Team and the Central Jersey Blood Bank, will be hosting a blood donation drive on Wednesday May 16th in the Family Life Center from 4PM to 8PM. Appointments can be made between services in the Narthex on Sundays, May 6th and May 13th. Donation appointments are set at 15 minute intervals. For more information, please contact Blood Drive Co-Chairs Kristin and George or the church office at 732-477-0676. If you are able, please come and share the gift of life by donating blood.

NEW TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY IS IN THE WORKS



Have you ever wondered, “Whatever happened to so-and-so? He or she used to sit near me in church every Sunday...?” Perhaps your neighbor in worship has not been attending services because he or she is no longer able to drive. Brick Presbyterian Church is in the process of developing a new ministry devoted to providing rides to church for those who no longer drive. These folks want to attend worship services, but for some reason (illness, injury, or other inability), are not able to do so. It is our goal to provide transportation to church services for all members when needed. A member may just need an occasional ride, or he/she may be in need of weekly transportation. At this time, we are in the process of building our database of drivers who are willing to provide rides for members in need. Your level of service in this ministry will depend on your availability and location. If you are interested in helping to build our new transportation ministry, please call the church office, or contact Joan at transportation@brickpresby.com. You will be contacted to obtain your availability for service. Wouldn't it be nice to see that familiar face again during worship and fellowship, in praise of the Lord?

House of Hope Cafe' *Feeding Body, Soul and Spirit*



The House of Hope Cafe' has just finished another awesome event in April. Abundant Grace Music took to the stage and filled the room with songs of Praise and Worship to the glory of our Lord. The Spirit of God was certainly amongst us, uplifting us and filling our hearts with His Joy, Fellowship and Love.

We'll get ready because coming up on June 9th is our next big event and we're bringing it all home. We have an awesome night planned with our very own praise team featuring Christy, Ashia, and Mike with Zach on percussion. With a special guest appearance by "Waiting For The Flood" praise band from our friends at Building On The Rock Community Church. And introducing 100K Sound Productions by none other than our very own Zach. Zach's Production Co. will be covering all those technical sound details, ensuring a great sound production.

We are truly fortunate to have the resources and talents of those within and surrounding our church and the ability to reach out to our community and fellow churches in the love of Christ is a blessing beyond compare. We invite all to come out and share in our Praise and Worship to our Lord who alone is worthy. Hope to see you in June!

DID YOU KNOW????



...that the money we donate to “Blankets Plus” does make a positive difference? The bible verse for 2012 Blanket Sunday is from Psalm 46: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

What difference does a blanket make? Read the following by Sherry L. Byrnes:

“Being alone and wishing for security, Blanket, you are our comforter
Living hard, no home of our own, Blanket, you are our carpet, our towel, our tablecloth,
and our cushion.

Aching with fear and cold, Blanket, you are our warmth, our coat, our cover.

Needing privacy, Blanket, you are our wall, our curtain, our shade.

Knowing I can only take what I carry, Blanket, you are my carrier, my travel companion,
my helper.

Evening time, black night settles on my shoulders. Blanket, you are our shelter, our
safety.

Trusting – there are many who care, whose gifts travel far.

Blanket, you are our lifeline to the Lord and the people whose love you send.

For over 60 years, Church World Service workers have provided emergency supplies of blankets, tools, and food to disaster-struck areas, tools and seeds to replant fields, wells to provide clean, safe water to drink and irrigate crops. By sharing our resources we make a difference in the lives of others. The impact of CWS was felt in the state of Washington where blankets were distributed to a homeless men’s shelter in Seattle. The village of Mwingi in Kenya also felt the impact by receiving safe drinking and irrigation water.

To make your gift more personal, you will have the opportunity for your monetary gift to be in honor or in memory of a loved one. A table will be provided in the narthex on two Sundays, May 6 and 13, where you may obtain a card which may be sent to the person or families that you are honoring. As usual, envelopes will be provided in the bulletin and pews for your use when the offering is received on May 13, Mother’s Day. Since this is personal for each family, a list of names will not be printed in the newsletter or bulletin.

In 2011, you, the members and friends of Brick Presbyterian Church, contributed \$807.52 to this program. We ask you to pray and give as generously as you are able. Please be aware that \$5 will provide a blanket for a child, \$25 will provide 5 blankets for a homeless family. “Let’s blanket the world with love.”

*Excerpted by your Mission Committee
from information provided by
Church World Service*

Tdap VACCINATIONS

Because the Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) has seen an increase in cases of whooping cough in our area, they have made available this vaccine. Tdap is a combination of three vaccines that protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Even if someone has had a Td booster (tetanus and diphtheria, usually given every 10 years) recently, they may be vaccinated with the Tdap to give them protection against whooping cough. The OCHD recommends at this time, if one has received the Tdap vaccination in their lifetime, they may not receive another. Persons need to receive their Tetanus booster every 10 years.



It is *important* for parents, grandparents, and healthcare workers to receive one dose of Tdap to protect themselves and any children in which they may be in contact. Not only are adults at risk for contracting whooping cough, they have the opportunity to pass the disease to infants and children who may not be fully immunized.



Immunizations

Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

- All adults, including those over the age of 65, should receive a Td (tetanus/diphtheria) booster every 10 yrs
- Adults under the age of 65, who have never received a Tdap, should receive this for their next booster dose.
- All adults, including those over the age of 65, who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age and who have not received the Tdap booster vaccine, should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis and reduce the likelihood of transmission.
- Adults over the age of 65 may also receive one dose of Tdap instead of Td if they have not previously received this vaccine.
- Any adult who wants to be protected from pertussis should receive this booster.
- New mothers who have never received a Tdap vaccine should get a dose as soon as possible after delivery.

As always please discuss with your physician or the OCHD at 732-341-9700, ext. 7515 or their website www.ochd.org

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

 Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity is a Mission that we Brick Presbyterians support. NOHFH is a non-profit, ecumenical, Christian housing ministry. They work in partnership with God and people everywhere to build simple, decent and affordable homes alongside families in need. They believe that all God's people deserve a clean and decent place to live. The family that is to receive the home works side by side with Habitat in the construction of their home.

In addition to building homes, Habitat has a resale store where the profit is used to purchase property for future homes. The resale store is always in need of good usable items.

ATTENTION: ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

You are welcome to join the Senior High Youth Group at any time.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, May 6, 2012 - Tent City - Help plant a garden.

Saturday, June 2, 2012 - 99.1 FM Celebration at Great Adventure

-- Includes Park Admission, Buffet Lunch & "Third Day" Concert (Christian Band)

If you have any questions -

Please contact Susan at: srhi@brickpresby.com



ATTENTION GRADUATES!

Are you or someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate school or vo tech this spring? If so, please let us know so we can share the news with your church family. Please include the name, where they're graduating from, and future plans (if known).



May Fundraising News



Thank you to everyone who supported our March and April fundraisers at Cheeburger Cheeburger, Ruby Tuesday, and Bon Tons. We hope you all enjoyed these events while helping us raise extra funds for our new Family Life Center.

TUSCAN HOUSE

Our May fundraiser is at the Tuscan House Italian Eatery and Pub, 1250 Hooper Ave. in Toms River. The Tuscan House features casual family style dining. This fundraiser is on Monday May 21st from 12 noon to 10 pm. and includes lunch, dinner and the bar. Please check our table in the narthex or the church website for the flyer and bring it to Tuscan House May 21st and have a great meal while supporting our church's building expansion fund!



Blue Claws



Please don't forget our spring **Blue Claws** game on **Sunday, May 13**. This is a one o'clock game and tickets are \$10 each. They can be exchanged for other games if you can't attend this one. We have 250 tickets to sell and the Blue Claws will donate \$3.50 per ticket toward our Building Expansion Fund. **Remember you can use these tickets for any game if you can't go on May 13th.** So stop by our table in the Narthex for more info and prizes for early buying. Get your tickets early... this one will sell out quickly!