

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

May 2011

Who Would Have Figured? - A Pastoral Reflection in Difficult Times



Life often does not play out the way we expect. Truth is life has many unexpected and seemingly strange twist and turns. Who would have thought a baby born to a slave during a time of infanticide and set adrift in a wicker basket in the Nile River would be raised by a daughter of the Pharaoh who ordered the infanticide?

Who would have thought someone born in a simple slave's hut would grow up in a palace?

Who would have thought that someone who was wanted as a fugitive from justice would bring forth God's justice upon an unjust ruler for those he oppressed?

Who would have thought a keeper of his father-in-law's sheep, living in exile would one day be the leader of a great army?

Who would have thought an uninspiring person who was not a good public speaker – would be speaking for God before the courts of a mighty Pharaoh, and talking with God in sacred places?

Who would have thought a man credited with bringing forth the law of God, would also be an example of grace?

Who would have thought a man, who died somewhat alone on a wilderness mountain would appear centuries later, standing with Elijah next to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration?

The man in question is Moses. He was not so very different really from other folk. He had his weaknesses and faults, like any of us. Moses had some talent like any of us. He had his doubts and hesitations like any of us. Where he made excuses, God provided a way. Like so many others who came after him – men and women whom no one could imagine as instruments of God's love, grace, power and justice. This man had faith in God – a faith that God does not lead where God will not also provide – a faith in God that knows God's ways exceeds our ways.

St Paul once wrote: “...we know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose.” – Romans 8:28.

Who would have thought those words would be written by a former enemy of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord?

Peace be with you, Pastor Doug



PENTECOST

We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday on June 12th. 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 June 12th.

GREAT NEWS!

On April 6th, Brick Presbyterian Church was granted a certificate of occupancy from Brick Township for the new building. This means that church members can now enter the church for services and church school via the new glass doors and lobby.

Because the Building Expansion Committee and the builder have a few projects still needing to be done in the new hall and kitchen that area will not be open to the public for a little while. However, we hope you will find use of the new entrances and lobby helpful.

Blood Drive

As we enter the month of May, we invite you to consider making a donation at the annual blood drive co-sponsored by the Board of Deacons and the Health Ministries Team. Your blood donations help to treat premature babies, burn and trauma victims, patients suffering from leukemia and other cancers, cardiac disease, and many other conditions that depend on blood products for recovery. Staff from the Central Jersey Blood Center will be here from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 18th to accept donations. Please look for the registration table in the narthex to register for the event. While advance registration is encouraged, walk-ins are also welcome. Invite your family, friends and co-workers to come and be a blood buddy!



Reminder:

**The Health Ministry Team will be checking blood pressure
at the coffee hour on May 15th !**



DID YOU KNOW???



...that one of the ministries that we Brick Presbyterians support is *Blankets + (Plus)*? The Bible verse for this year's Blanket Sunday is from Jeremiah 29:11 – "I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord... 'to give you a future with hope'".

Eight thousand congregations and groups across the United States support Church World Service in this mission. This offering provides funds to help people in need around the world. For over 60 years CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they require to build the foundation for a more viable future. *Blankets +* has four basic areas that are necessary in helping CWS cover all aspects of their work:

1. Blankets, tents, food, and other emergency supplies in a disaster.
2. Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant fields.
3. Wells for families living in drought areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and irrigate crops.
4. Literacy training and micro-credit for women struggling to realize their potential.

By sharing our resources, we make a difference in the lives of others. The impact of CWS is evident around the world.

Pakistan felt the impact when CWS distributed winter supply packages which contained four blankets, flour, rice, oil and legumes. Haiti also received hundreds of blankets, food and water when the earthquake struck.

To make your gift to *Blankets +* personal, you will have the opportunity for your monetary gift to be in honor of or in memory of a loved one. A table will be provided in the Narthex on two Sundays, May 1 and May 8, where you may obtain your card. These cards are to be sent to the person or families that you are honoring or memorializing. As usual, envelopes will be provided in the bulletin and pews for your use. The offering will be received on May 8th, Mothers Day. Since this is personal to each family that is represented, a list of names will not be printed in the newsletter or bulletin.

In 2010, you, the members and friends of Brick Presbyterian Church, contributed \$1,283 to this program. The members of the Mission Committee 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, or \$100 will enable three women to receive a micro-credit loan. Remember, your gift will be received on May 8, Mothers Day.

"Let's blanket the world with love."

Excerpted from information provided by Church World Service

Volunteers are seldom paid;
Not because they are useless,
But because they are **"PRICELESS."**

Getting physically fit!



Did you know?

Some activity is better than none. The more you do, the greater the health benefits and the better you'll feel.

Physical activity is any form of exercise or movement of the body that uses energy. Some of your daily life activities - doing active chores around the house, yard work, walking the dog - are examples.

To get the **health benefits** of physical activity, include activities that make you breathe harder and make your heart and blood vessels healthier. These **aerobic activities** include things like brisk walking, running, dancing, swimming, and playing basketball. Also include **strengthening activities** to make your muscles stronger, like push-ups and lifting weights.

The good news? People of all types, shapes, sizes, and abilities can benefit from being physically active. Talk with your health care team about the amount and types of activities that are right for your ability or condition.

Find out what kind and how much physical activity you need

It's your choice. Pick an activity that's easy to fit into your life. Do at least 10 minutes of physical activity at a time. Choose **aerobic** activities that work for you. These make your heart beat faster and can make your heart, lungs, and blood vessels stronger and more fit. Also, do **strengthening** activities which make your muscles do more work than usual.

Why should I be physically active?

Physical activity can make you feel stronger and more alive. It is a fun way to be with your family or friends. It also helps you improve your health.

How many times a week should I be physically active?

It is up to you, but it is better to spread your activity throughout the week and to be active at least 3 days a week.

How do I build up more physical activity?

Do a little more each time. Once you feel comfortable, do it more often. Then you can trade activities at a moderate level for vigorous ones that take more effort. You can do moderate and vigorous activities in the same week.

Moderate Activities (I can talk while I do them, but I can't sing.)

• Ballroom and line dancing • Biking on level ground or with few hills • Canoeing • General gardening (raking, trimming shrubs) • Sports where you catch and throw (baseball, softball, volleyball) • Tennis (doubles) • Using your manual wheelchair • Using hand cyclers—also called ergometers • Walking briskly • Water aerobics

Vigorous Activities (I can only say a few words without stopping to catch my breath.)

• Aerobic dance • Biking faster than 10 miles per hour • Fast dancing • Heavy gardening (digging, hoeing) • Hiking uphill • Jumping rope • Martial arts (such as karate) • Race walking, jogging, or running • Sports with a lot of running (basketball, hockey, soccer) • Swimming fast or swimming laps • Tennis (singles)



The Deacons Bench

The Board of Deacons would like to extend a special **thank you** to our church family and friends for your support of our efforts to provide food to those in need. Your gracious contributions allowed us to provide food baskets packed with an Easter greeting from our church, grocery items, candy and Shop-Rite gift cards to more than two dozen families in our area. You have again made it possible for us to extend God's love and providence to our neighbors.



Easter
Food Baskets

We also offer our gratitude for your donations in support of our military. We were able to assemble a number of cartons for delivery to American Recreational Military Services for distribution to our service men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. We will continue to collect items so please look for our basket in the narthex. As Memorial Day approaches, this is a great way to remember and honor the service of the brave men and women who protect us.



Last but not least, we want to share news of a very special outreach opportunity for our church. The topic of homelessness has been brought to the forefront in Ocean County as the numbers have increased in recent years. On its face, the prospect of solving the problem seems quite daunting. However, there are a number of organizations and individuals working diligently to develop housing solutions in our county that are cost efficient and meet the needs of those desperately seeking shelter.

For the past several years, a number of homeless people have set up shelter in tents in a wooded area in Lakewood, less than five miles from our church. A dedicated individual, Steven Brigham, has been working tirelessly with the support of financial and material contributions to provide tents, clothing, food and other necessities for the residents of this Tent City. Our Board of Deacons recently learned that two of the most welcome and needed items are bottled water and eggs. As our Board considered these needs, we were confident that the resources so kindly donated by our congregation for our work allowed us to provide these items for the residents of Tent City. In addition, we provided boxes of much needed food from our pantry. It is our prayer and our hope that as other needs for this population become known to us, we will be able to respond for in Matthew 25:40, Jesus reminds us that **"...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."**



Homeless Outreach

Again, we thank you for your support of our work. It is your continued generosity that allows us to share God's love in very tangible ways with others.

**Be Someone's Answered Prayer:
Because you believe, you can save a life:
Be the Match**



Every year thousands of patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases need a bone marrow transplant to survive. Seventy percent of the patients will not find a donor within their family. They turn to the "Be the Match Registry" to find someone willing to offer them a second chance to live – to take a child from a patient chart to a growth chart; to help a parent once again provide for their family.

Moved by the love of Jesus Christ and touched by the needs of those needing both hope and help, our church, through the initiative of Mary Beth Erickson and members of our Health Ministry Team, will be sponsoring an educational opportunity to learn about bone marrow donations and offering an opportunity for those moved to have their names placed on a voluntary registry of potential donors of marrow.

On Sunday, June 5th we at Brick Presbyterian Church will offer an educational presentation from 3-4 P.M. by "Be the Match Registry" on marrow transplants. Then from 4-7 p.m. there will be an opportunity for donor candidates to register as possible marrow donors. This is a very special way in which we can reach out in love to someone. And, it is a wonderful way for those who feel called to explore and possibly do this to walk the talk of Jesus who commanded us to "...love our neighbor as yourself" in Mark 12:31.

Look for information in the Sunday bulletin on Sunday, May 22nd. Watch the church website for information at www.brickpresby.com To learn more about "Be the Match" visit www.BeTheMatch.org This event is open to the entire community and not just to Brick Presbyterians, so help us spread the word. Thanks for caring and praying for this event.

Youth Group News



In the month of April, the Youth Group had an awesome time playing outdoor laser tag, making palm crosses and delivering them to Shorrock Gardens Nursing Home - bringing smiles to the elderly. They also started their fund raising for the Christmas children gifts with a very successful bake sale.

May is always an exciting month as we have the Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg the weekend of the 20th. There will be a mandatory parents/kids meeting on May 1st in between services in the church parlor. At that time all the permission slips will be given out and we will be going over the rules and code of conduct.

Permission slips and checks will be due no later than May15th.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment" Matthew 22:37

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).



VBS 2011

The Christian Education Committee is tentatively planning Vacation Bible School for the week of July 25th through July 29th. It will be held from 10:00am until 12:00 noon. Volunteers are desperately needed in order to change it from tentative to definite. Please contact Donna if you have ANY amount of time to give at christianeducation@brickpresby.com/

Fourth and Fifth Grade Retreat

FYI: 4th and 5th grade retreat at Camp Johnsonburg is scheduled for June 3rd & 4th. Please contact Donna for more info at christianeducation@brickpresby.com.



FAMOUS DAVE'S RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER



With the spring weather upon us, it's time for barbeque, so our next fundraiser will be at **Famous Dave's** on Cedarbridge Avenue in Brick. The dates are May 24th and 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for takeout, dine-in, as well as the bar! Look for the flyer soon in the church Narthex or on the website (www.brickpresby.com). Pick up a flyer or print one out and bring it to **Famous Dave's on May 24th or 25th** and our church will receive 10% toward our building fund. Come on out for a great time, great food, and great friends, and we'll see you at Famous Dave's in May!

SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH @ 5:05 PM

LAKWOOD BLUE CLAWS

The fundraising committee will soon be selling tickets for the Lakewood Blue Claws baseball game being held the evening of August 14th. Tickets will be \$10.00 per person. Look for our table in the Narthex for upcoming 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, so please ask all your friends and family to come to the game as well! Tickets at the gate will be \$11.00, so save money and buy them in advance from us while supporting our building fund at the same time!

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 all 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).