

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

October 2017

“Seeing that God is Good at BPC from the Mountain Top” Pastor Doug’s Reflection on Life at BPC

I love mountain tops, for from them one can see for miles. As a teenager, I use to climb Mosey Bank, a hill where I grew up. From the top of that hill I could see my parent’s home in which I grew up, the church where I went to Sunday School and worship services, and the lakes and streams that I once fished on a regular basis. From the mountain top, I could see things that I could not see from the ground below, where often other things obscured my view.

In the book of Numbers, God took Moses up to a mountain top where Moses was allowed to see the Promised Land toward which God had been leading the Israelites through the wildness for so many years. I suspect Moses and those he led wondered at times if they would ever make it to the Promised Land. After all they had been through, so many dangers, toils, and snares. And, I suspect like anyone of us, those folk, because of those difficult times, may have had their doubts about the journey.

But from a mountain top Moses could see things from a different vantage point. Moses could see the River Jordan and the Promised Land toward which they had been journeying so many difficult years. Moses could reassure his people that their journey had not been for naught. He had been to the mountain top. He had seen the Promised Land. And that vision from the mountain top gave strength, hope, energy, and reassurance to God’s people.

Recently from the mountain top of my office I was blessed to see a number of children present at the kick off of our Junior and Senior High Youth Groups just a few weeks ago. I received reports of a good turnout for the startup of our Sunday School year. From the mountain top of my office I have seen this year an increase in the baptisms of children (*double that of the previous year*). I have observed how our Hand Bell Choir has been revitalized in number and spirit. I have seen new members join our congregation who are investing themselves in the work of Jesus. From the mountain top, I have seen our congregation and its leaders show the strength and determination of our faith weathering a long search for a new church organist; and now, we are blessed for our faithfulness with Cindy Woolford, who will be starting this month. From the mountain top, I have seen our church showing signs of revitalization as a new men’s ministry fellowship has just gotten underway. This transformation is seen as some members are looking into organizing a Seniors Ministry; as others are working hard to raise funds for

our church's work; as others are preparing the way for a new and updated church directory.

From the mountain top, I see how your ministry is making a difference in the larger community. This was recognized by the Postal Workers delivering a pickup truck of food to our Deacon's Pantry; and the letters of appreciation that both the Session and our Deacons have received by those individuals and groups your support of Christ's work has benefited.

It is so easy to only see some things when I walked at ground level when I was growing up – sometimes to see only the negative. But when I was on the mountain top, I got to see so much more in my village than at street level. And what I saw inspired and reassured me that God is good, all the time. May you see things in all their breadth from the mountain top and be reassured in our common life in the Lord that all the time, God is good.



Pianist).

Welcome our New Organist, Cindy Woolford!

After a long and prayerful search by our Personnel Committee and Church staff, we are pleased to announce the hire of **Cynthia “Cindy” Woolford** as our new Minister of Instrumental Music (*Organist and*

Cindy states that she is honored to have been asked to be our new organist. She comes to us with 48 years of experience in liturgical music in various denominations. She has had the privilege to work and play at various churches and temples during her career, as well as being invited and playing at both St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove. She worked with the Peragallo Organ Company in Paterson, New Jersey, in the design and build of a 23 rank, 3 manual pipe organ for St. Mark's Catholic Church in Sea Girt, New Jersey.

Cindy is a member of the National Pastoral Musicians and the American Guild of Organists. She has traveled throughout the state freelancing and substituting wherever she has been called to serve. Cindy looks forward to becoming a part of the Brick Presbyterian Church family and hopes to enhance our Worship Services.

We look forward to Cindy's starting with us on Sunday, October 1st, and we feel very blessed to have her become a part of our music ministry.

The Sunday School Teachers for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

Nursery - Joan Horan
Pre-K and Kindergarten - Lauren Dyke and Ryan Fortier
First, Second and Third - Susan Pacitti and Donna Solly
Fourth and Fifth - Lauren Towlen, Kelly Kraynick and Drew Trautweiler
Sixth, Seventh and Eighth - Donna Schlatter, Kathy Kraynick and Connor Trautweiler
Confirmation Class - Vic Erickson and Pastor Doug.



Youth Group Leaders

Junior High - Kathy Kraynick and Tom and Debbie Fortier
Senior High - Donna Schlatter and Ryan Fortier

Flu & Pneumonia Vaccination Clinic



On **Sunday, October 1st**, from **10:00 am to 12:00 noon**, we will again be offering these vaccinations in cooperation with the Ocean County Health Department in our Family Life Center. Influenza and Pneumonia vaccinations are free if enrolled in Medicare Part B (\$20 if not enrolled). ***Please remember to bring your Medicare card.***

The Ocean County Health Department is also offering chronic disease screening services at this clinic. These screenings include Blood Pressure Screening, Stroke Risk Assessment, Cholesterol Screening & Glucose screening.

These are all free!

We hope to see you on October 1st to take advantage of this opportunity and to be prepared for the 2017-2018 flu season!

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee would like to *thank everyone* who purchased chrysanthemum plants last month. We would also like to thank the **Towlen Family** for their help once again with this annual fundraiser.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event will be held on **Tuesday, October 17**, at all Boscov's locations. We will continue to sell these 25%-off shopping passes through Sunday, October 15, for \$5.00. Each pass entitles you to a 25%-off shopping pass, a chance to win a \$100 or \$500 gift card and free refreshments on the day of the event.

Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias Plants

We are continuing to take pre-orders for 22-24" decorated Christmas Wreaths and 6" and 8" Poinsettia plants. The wreaths can be purchased for \$30.00, the 6" Poinsettias for \$15.00 or 3/\$30.00 and the 8" Poinsettias for \$25.00 each.

Italian Dinner

On Saturday, October 21, The Fundraising Committee, with the help of The Fellowship Committee, will host an Italian Dinner in The Family Life Center. The profit from the dinner will go to The Deacons to help with their charitable work. *Details will be available shortly.*

Holiday Pie Sale

Please look for more information in the coming weeks regarding our Holiday Pie Sale. These will be the same delicious pies we offered last year from Cameo Cakes in Brielle.

Craft Show

Our Committee will once again be holding a Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair in The Family Life Center on Saturday, November 18. Stop in, check out the variety of items that will be offered and perhaps do a little Christmas shopping!!!

New Church Directory

Soon we will begin taking appointments for photos for our new Church Directory. Photo dates will be December 6, 7 & 8 and reminders and other information will be available continuously until then. Please see us if you have any questions.



Stream Energy and AmazonSmile



Please ask about our ongoing fundraisers with Stream Energy (save on your energy bills) and AmazonSmile (Amazon donates to BPC).



Volunteers Needed!



Please come join the **PB&G** Committee on **Saturday, October 14, 2017** from **8 am – 12 Noon**. Church clean up and organization projects are a work in progress and need your help. No experience necessary; tools will be provided. Donuts and coffee will be provided. We're asking for a representative of each Committee so your belongings are identified. **Contact Chuck Cumella** with any questions.

Junior High

The Junior and Senior High had a great time of fellowship and pizza at their kickoff party in September and look forward to an exciting year of mission work, fellowship and fun!

Mark your calendar with the upcoming events:

October 15th - Both Senior and Junior High will be participating in the **Crop Walk** at the Toms River Presbyterian Church. We will meet in our church parking lot at 12:30 or you can meet us there at 12:45. The kids are urged to raise pledges outside the church; pledge sheets will be available in the Narthex and will be emailed to all the Jr. High members.



October 22nd - Both groups will be participating in a **BAKE SALE** in between services. Please bring in something baked to sell to raise funds for our "Earn Your Wings" project.

October 22nd - Jr. High will be going to **Von Thuns Farms** to conquer their awesome corn maze. We will be leaving right after the bake sale at 11:00am. The cost will be \$6.00 per person.

*May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.
Psalm 104:31*

MONMOUTH PRESBYTERY FALL GATHERING FOR ALL WOMEN

All women are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering on **Saturday October 28th**. Registration is at 9:00 am and program is at 9:30 am. ***This will be held right here at Brick Presbyterian.***

The theme : "The Heart of Centering Prayer"

Our Speaker : Rev. John Monroe, pastor of the Rumson Presbyterian Church

Registration : \$5.00

We are asking everyone to bring a sandwich.

Hope to see the women from BRICK! - Lori Evans, Moderator PW Monmouth
Presbytery



Ocean County "Pat Donohue" CROP Hunger Walk

Each year, our community comes together to raise money and awareness for hunger relief locally and around the world through the CROP Hunger Walk. Roughly 1,000 CROP Hunger Walks happen every year in the United States. Walkers ask family, neighbors, colleagues, and places of worship to pledge dollars for their participation in a 5k walk. Our steps symbolize the daily journey others must make for food and clean water.

The Ocean County "Pat Donohue" CROP Hunger Walk will be held on **10/15/2017**. Registration opens at **1:30 p.m.** **Walk begins at 2 p.m.**

***The Walk begins at Toms River Presbyterian Church,
1070 Hooper Avenue & Chestnut Street, Toms River***

One-fourth of the funds raised stays in our community to support local hunger and poverty fighting programs. This year's walk will support the work of **Interfaith Hospitality Network**. The remaining money is used by **Church World Service** to alleviate hunger in poor communities throughout the world.

In addition to assisting hungry families in our area, CROP helps families in the United States and around the world who are victims of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, the earthquake in Haiti, and refugees fleeing war or famine. CROP also supports development projects in the world's poorest communities - agricultural training, health clinics, micro-businesses, schools, and fresh water wells.

EVERYONE! CROP Hunger Walks are community events involving everyone who wants to fight hunger around the block and around the world. Our walk encourages teams and individuals from public and private schools, civic and cultural groups, area businesses, and all faith groups.

There is NO FEE to participate. All donations are helpful, but each walker is encouraged to raise \$100 or more. ***For more information, stop at the registration/donation table in the narthex or contact Sherrie Cumella at 908-330-0600.***

**JOIN THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TEAM
BY WALKING WITH US OR BY DONATING!!!**

HONOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS THROUGH OUR SPECIAL OFFERING ON OCTOBER 8TH



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christ's death gave life to a world that suffers through division and hostility. The power our Lord has over sin and death is manifested in the reconciliation and forgiveness that we find in our relationship with God and in our relationships with one another. In Christ's life and death, a model of reconciliation was given, one that brought together and repaired the connection between all of humanity and God.

As Christ is our peace and our model of reconciliation, we are to follow that example and that calling to proclaim peace to those who are far off and those who are near. Our working for peace and reconciliation must be proclaimed in everything we do. The Peace & Global Witness Offering is the proclamation of the Church that we believe this work is important and part of our life as Christians. It is our support of ministries like those of John, an Episcopal clergyman from South Sudan, working to reconcile communities in tension living in refugee camps in Uganda. It is in training leaders to de-escalate tension in communities wrestling with gun violence. It is in the work of our presbytery to advocate for those who are disadvantaged. It is in the work of **Mark Hare and Jenny Bent**, our mission co-workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as they impact lives through the Community Health Evangelism program. And it is in the work that our congregation does to serve those within our own reach. This proclamation of Christ's peace is an incredible message that inspires hope and wholeness for our congregation and immediate neighborhood but also goes out into the world to find peace and unity in ways we would have otherwise never imagined.

On **October 8th**, the *Peace and Global Witness Offering* will be taken. Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays in our congregation for use as determined by us and 25% is retained by our mid council, enabling the freedom to provide support where it is needed most. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews on October 1st and in the bulletin on October 8th. Please give generously.

- *Information taken from pcusa.org*

An Update on our Mission Co-Workers Mark Hare and Jenny Bent

For a number of years, our congregation has dedicated its 25% share of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to support the work of Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, our mission co-workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Mark and Jenny support the work of the Protestant Dominican Church through its Community Health Evangelism (CHE) program. This sustainable community development approach views health in its broadest terms: physical, mental emotional, and spiritual. Mark trains and supports community leaders as they begin to implement CHE. An agricultural technician, Mark also lends his expertise to sustainable agriculture programs of the Dominican church as well as with partners in neighboring Haiti. Jenny, a community health consultant, works with the Evangelical Dominican Church in the bateys, company towns largely populated by Haitian sugarcane workers.

Please continue to keep Mark and Jenny in your prayers as they care for and work with our brothers and sisters afar.
Mission

- *Presbyterian World*

OCTOBER IS - DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Ocean County College, in collaboration with the Ocean County Human Relations Commission, and the Department of Human Services, Office for Individuals with Disabilities presents:

Hidden Resources in Ocean County Tuesday, October 10 – 11am-2pm

2nd Floor of the Jon & Judith Larson Student Center (Bldg. 8)

***Find out what resources are available to individuals with disabilities.
For more info, contact Jamie Prioli at 732-255-0456 Ext. 2465.***

**FROM PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE:
YOU SHALL BE ... THE RESTORER OF STREETS TO LIVE IN (Isaiah 58:12)
Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by these catastrophic
hurricanes?**

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Even as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) began working toward recovery after Hurricane Harvey, Irma followed close behind, weaving a path of devastation, wiping out islands in the Caribbean and bringing damaging winds and storm surge to Florida. There are buildings that are no more than shells and boats where boats should not be. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ.

GIVE: PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Checks may be made payable to Brick Presbyterian Church and will be forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. For an undesignated gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, please note PDA in the memo section of your check or on the envelope. For Irma response, please note PDA-Irma in the memo section of your check or on the envelope. For Harvey response, please note PDA-Harvey in the memo section of your check or on the envelope.

ACT: Assemble hygiene kits for survivors in the affected areas and drop off at the church. A hygiene kit should include a hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels), a washcloth, a wide-tooth comb (remove from package), a nail clipper (Nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package.), a bar of soap (bath size in wrapper), a toothbrush (in original packaging), 10 Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to international Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

PRAY: *In the challenging days, months, and years to come, work through us to bring relief and respite from urgent need, comfort and the hope of peace for those who grieve the loss of family, home and safety, and faith to walk on through weary days of rebuilding. May we be steadfast in love, stronger than death, and thus, with those whose lives we seek to sustain, together bear witness to your redeeming love. Amen.*

**Keep up to date on long-term recovery efforts at presbyterianmission.org/pda
or [facebook.com/PDACARES](https://www.facebook.com/PDACARES).**

THANKS TO THOSE WHO ACTED!

Friends, a big giant thank you for putting together hygiene kits for Church World Service for Texas. A big thank you also to our youth groups.

GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS

Food Pantry



The Board of Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our Food Pantry. Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas, will be here before we know it, and many families in our community will need holiday meals. Please continue to bring in non-perishable items for our Food Pantry. We are looking ahead in the hopes of being prepared for the holidays. Suggested food pantry items include:

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|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Canned vegetables | Pasta soup | Canned chicken |
| Canned fruit | Jello | Canned beans |
| Spaghetti sauce | Corn bread mix | Mayonnaise |
| Macaroni & cheese | Bisquick | Peanut butter |
| Rice | Tea bags | Jelly |
| Boxed potatoes | Coffee | Gravy |
| | Powdered juice/milk | Stuffing |
| | Cereal | |
| | Cans of tuna fish | |

Please continue to support our Active Military Ministry with your donations of personal items. These items are assembled into care packages that are distributed to our service men and women. For a full list of suggested items, please visit the Deacon’s page on our church website.



On behalf of the congregation, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the U.S. Postal Service of Brick for their generous donations to our Food Pantry. Their recent food collection helped us to replenish our diminishing stock.

Thank you, Postal Workers!