

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

September 2011

Pastoral Update on Life at Brick Presbyterian Church

I hope you each had a good summer and got time to refresh mind, body and soul enjoying God's wonders of the Jersey Shore and elsewhere. To those who have been away from the church over the summer, I want to welcome you back as you resume fellowship with us in worshipping the Lord and enrolling children in Church School. To those who have been with us throughout the summer, let me say it is always great to be together with you.

This was a busy summer. In July we had a wonderful picnic and worship experience at Windward Beach. We had a well received Vacation Bible School Day Camp. While rain forced us to move our August service on the front lawn inside, the rain did not dampen our spirits as we demonstrated we are not the frozen chosen, but rather a lively gathering of God's chosen. After which we enjoyed bagels and coffee thanks to our Worship Committee. We also hosted this summer students from Spain.

The Building Expansion and Property Committees have been busy too. Heavy rains led to the bailout of a flooded church basement on several occasions. And things were done to help prevent a repeat of those experiences. The committees have been working diligently to get contractors to finish the final items on the new building. In the very near future we hope to have protective coverings of some sort on the windows in the new building, making it safe to play volleyball and basketball and other related youth activities. We are pressing our acoustical people to complete work in the Church Family Life Center/new hall so we can use the space for other programs too. The committees have also been drafting plans to lay the "Memorial Bricks" in late August- early September, so that a walkway can be completed and the bricks many of you purchased can be displayed.

In August we had to replace the fire, heat and smoke sensors in the original church structure as we learned they were no longer useful. This led to a major update of the fire alarm panel converting it from an outdated analog system to a modern digital system compatible with the system in the new building.

While a number of our members relocated out of NJ this year, we look forward to receiving several new members in the fall. You will be seeing that I will be leading an adult class on the Beatitudes on Thursday mornings this fall, and offering some other adult education opportunities to be announced later. Our youth leaders are planning a youth retreat at Camp Johnsonburg this fall. And we are investigating the possibility of a Mission Trip with another Presbyterian Church in the area. Our Church website now has a Facebook link for you to visit.

Our Board of Deacons has been providing food and water to the residents of "Tent City." The Deacons and Session have also applied for a General Assembly Grant to help support this ministry. We hope to know in the late fall if we will be able to receive those grant funds. And, our Stewardship Committee has doubled its membership.

This fall we will work on a new church pictorial directory; host a County Health Dept. Flu Shot Clinic; hold a pancake breakfast in the Church Family Life Center; and host a new Brownie Scout troop. With your support, involvement and God's help, this will be a great year in the life of our congregation.

WE'RE BACK TO OUR "REGULAR" WORSHIP TIMES IN SEPTEMBER!

Starting September 11th (also the first day of Sunday School), we will be returning to our "regular" worship times of 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. See you at Worship!



Tenth Anniversary Remembrance Service

On Sunday, September 11, 2011 we note the observance of the Tenth Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our nation. Brick Township will hold a Remembrance Service at Windward Beach Park at 3:00 P.M. to remember those attacks and to honor the memory of those who lost their lives on that tragic day.

You are invited to attend a short service to be held at Windward Beach Park on what is known as Challenger Way in front of the "Angel in Anguish" monument. Let us demonstrate our unity as a community by taking time to attend this service.



SIMKO'S FUNDRAISER

Back by popular demand our second fundraising event at Simko's Restaurant on **September 21st and 22nd**. Spend a great night out and Simko's will give 20% of your check to our Church's Building Campaign. All that's required is that you show up on **Wednesday, September 21st or Thursday, September 22nd** and give the Simko's flyer to your server. **The flyer must be presented for us to get the donation.** The flyer will be available on this website and in the Narthex at the church. Please give the flyer to everyone who you think would like to support our Church. Only one flyer is needed per table, and we cannot give them out at the restaurant. Gift cards are available for purchase but please **no coupons**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to help our Church and spend fun a night out. Please mark your calendars now and let's fill Simko's to capacity!

The Beatitudes are Coming – The Beatitudes are Coming!

Beginning late September, there will be an adult Bible Study, based on the Presbyterian Women's Study of the Beatitudes, led by Rev. Chase. We often think of these sayings attributed to Jesus as being mild statements attributed to Jesus. However, in this study you may find that these nice sounding words would have been heard very differently by those living in Jesus' earthly day. Come and learn how these words are both comforting and challenging to those who first heard what Jesus had to say.

The classes will be held from 11:00 A.M. to Noon on the following Thursdays: Sept. 29th, October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; and November 3rd, 10th and 17th. These classes are open to anyone interested and available to attend. All you need to do is show up with a Bible.

Watch for announcements for this Study in the Sunday bulletin and on our church website at www.brickpresby.com

ACOLYTE TRAINING/PARTY EVENT



This year's annual acolyte training session will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM. Children from the 3rd Grade through 6th Grade are eligible to attend this event.

The responsibility of an acolyte is to bring the Light of Jesus Christ into the sanctuary by lighting the candles on the chancel to start our 9am and 11am worship services, and to extinguish them and to bring out the Light of Jesus Christ at the end of the 9am service.

Following this training session, we will have a "Make Your Own Sundae" party. Parents should come back to the church around 8:15 PM to pick up the children.

Sign-up sheets for acolyte volunteers will be distributed to each of the Sunday School classes before this event with a final roster schedule created after this date. Each child should be scheduled for 3 to 4 times during the year to serve as an acolyte.

So, please mark your calendar if your children are interested in serving as an acolyte and are in the 3rd through 6th grades.

For any questions, please contact Cheryl by leaving a message at the church office (732-477-0676). See you there!!



Workers Needed for Pictorial Directory



Many of you are aware that our congregation has changed a lot in the last five years. That is especially true if you were to look at the last Church Pictorial Directory which was done in 2005.

Now we are planning on making a new pictorial directory and need some volunteer workers. We have a couple of volunteers already, but would like to get several more (as many hands make light work). If you are interested in helping in some way or another please e-mail the church office or contact our pastor at pastor@brickpresby.com. Thank you in advance for stepping up to the plate to help us get this accomplished for everyone in our church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The first of the '11 – '12 quarterly gatherings will take place at the church at 12 Noon on Wednesday, September 21. Following a brown bag lunch, with dessert and beverage provided by Circle hostesses, there will be a short business meeting. This will include receiving the annual “Least Coin” and “Thank” offerings which have been put aside during the year, in gratitude for all we’ve been given. We have the hope that combined with the offerings of Presbyterian Women worldwide, our thanks will become loaves of bread and pieces of fish for many. Also, our quarterly local mission offering will be received with the membership electing to direct it to Brick Presbyterian Board of Deacons for their ongoing efforts in the Tent City ministry. Our gathering will be turned over to Pastor Doug for an overview of this year’s Circle study, “*Confessing the Beatitudes*”. All women members and friends of our church are welcome – whether or not you are a Circle member. Pastor Doug’s review of these studies is always interesting with his insight and challenges. If you are not a Circle member and would like to be, see the Moderator or any member of PW for details. But, come on out for fellowship, lunch with friends, ministry, and hearing more about the familiar Beatitudes.

Starting the third Friday of the month in September, the Presbyterian Women’s Circle “Naomi” will be switching over to a daytime meeting from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the church parlor.

We will be studying with the author (Margaret Aymer) of our new Bible Study “Confessing the Beatitudes” via a DVD.

There will be a time for study, prayer, the lighting of the Christ Candle and other symbols that go along with each lesson and tackling some questions, learning some Greek words and writing a confession after each lesson.

If you are interested in joining the circle, please see or call Lori or just come! “All Women are Welcomed”

DID YOU KNOW?

...Presbyterians will celebrate Christian Education Week this September 11th – 17th? We pray for all students to have a wonderful school year. We invite all children through 8th grade to attend Sunday School and for the Middle School and Senior High students to be involved in our church Youth Groups. Also, be sure to regularly check our church’s website www.brickpresby.com for educational information, dates, and opportunities. The links include one for The Monmouth Presbytery Educational Ministries Work Group. Scholarships are potentially available for persons wishing to attend events with the goal of developing and/or nurturing professional, clergy, or lay leadership capabilities – such as office staff, Elders, Deacons, Music Ministers, youth workers, Sunday School teachers, superintendents, Christian Ed workers, Directors of Christian Ed, etc.



From your Mission Committee

DEACONS

The holidays and the season of giving are still a few months off, but it's never too early to start thinking about making a donation to the food pantry. As always, we are grateful for your generous donations of food items, and in anticipation of this year's need, we are already inviting you to consider making a contribution of canned goods and non-perishable food items to the food pantry. Please thoughtfully consider making a donation of items, including things you might not usually think of such as canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce, crackers, pancake mix, and tea bags. We thank you for your bounteousness!

Brick Presbyterian Church is Recipient of Cents-Ability Grant for Ministry to Tent City



Homeless Outreach

One of our newest ministries is the Deacons' Tent City Relief Project. Tent city is an encampment in the woods of Lakewood where approximately 70 homeless people reside. Beginning earlier this year and thanks to donations of funds and food, we have been providing eggs, water, and some basic needed items to its residents on a regular basis.

In late spring, we learned about the Cents-Ability grant program sponsored by the Presbytery of Monmouth. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness and funds in the fight against hunger. Grants are awarded to organizations in New Jersey "actively seeking to meet the needs of hungry people or addressing issues relating to the political, economic, and societal issues that cause hunger." We submitted our application and learned in June that we were among ten recipients of a grant. We have been presented with a \$400 check to help us in providing basic food items to the Tent City population.

We rejoice in the Cents-Ability grant award. The award recognizes our desire to bring ongoing relief to those in a dire situation who are loved by God every bit as much as we who are fortunate to find ourselves in better circumstances. Further, we were encouraged to submit an application to our denomination for a grant from the national Presbyterian Hunger Program and we expect to learn more about that in late 2011.

Tent City has been regularly featured in media outlets during recent weeks as the plight of homelessness continues in our area. We intend to continue our response to their need, remembering Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

MISSIONARY UPDATE



CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of Annika to Mark and Jenny Hare (the Missionary supported by BPC and his wife). She was born on Sunday, July 10th. Annika joins Keila (approximately 2 years old), as a second daughter of Mark and Jenny. We wish them all blessings and good health!

Information from "A Letter From Mark Hare", as seen online linked through <http://www.brickpresby.com/> (on this website choose MISSION from the top banner and scroll down to MISSIONARY)

Youth Groups

We hope everyone had a wonderful safe summer! Our first Youth Group Meeting will be on September 11th at 5:30 pm . As usual we are starting off the new Youth Group season with our annual Welcoming Dinner. Grades 6 through 12 are all welcome to attend this dinner. After dinner we will break up into Senior and Junior High groups to discuss all the events we have planned for the season.

One event that I must mention now is a special retreat we are planning to attend on September 30th at Camp Johnsonburg. This retreat is for both Senior and Junior High Youth Groups; it is a one night stay and is an individual youth group team building session. We would stay with our own youth group and build upon our relationships with each other to learn to work as a team. We would come home from this retreat with a better understanding of each other and get to know each other in our walk with Christ.



Please return the permission slips with the check on the night of the dinner.

Bell Choir



Rehearsals begin Monday, September 12, 7:00 – 8:30
We will be starting our Eleventh Season!

What Ever Happened To...?

Did you ever wonder what happened to the people who used to be regulars around Brick Presbyterian Church before they went off to school somewhere? We'd like to start letting everyone know what some of our recent graduates are doing. But we need **YOUR** help! If you, a family member or friend are a fairly recent graduate, please let us know what you're doing!

We only have a few of our recent graduates. Someone has to tell us so we can list them here! Please forward your information to newsletter@brickpresby.com so we can publish it in a future newsletter!

HEALTH MINISTRY

The Health Ministry Group is planning for 2 events this fall. Please put these dates on your calendar! There will be more details in October's newsletter.



Depression Seminar - October 18th with Lynn Leonard
Flu Vaccination Clinic - Sunday, November 6th 10 am – 1 pm

ALZHEIMER'S

“The idea that Alzheimer's is entirely genetic and unpreventable is perhaps the greatest misconception about the disease”, says Gary Small, M.D., director of the UCLA Center on Aging.

Researchers now know that Alzheimer's, like heart disease and cancer, develops over decades and can be influenced by lifestyle factors including cholesterol, blood pressure, obesity, depression, education, education, nutrition, sleep and mental, physical and social activity.

What to Drink for Good Memory

A great way to keep your aging memory sharp and avoid Alzheimer's is to drink the right stuff.

- **Tops: Juice.** A glass of fruit or vegetable juice three times a week slashed Alzheimer's odds 76% in Vanderbilt University research. Especially protective: blueberry, grape and apple juice, say other studies.
- **Tea.** Only a cup of black or green tea a week cuts rates of cognitive decline in older people by 37%, reports the Alzheimer's Association. Only brewed tea works. Skip bottled tea, which is devoid of antioxidants.
- **Caffeine beverages.** Surprisingly, caffeine fights memory loss and Alzheimer's, suggests dozens of studies. Best sources: coffee (one Alzheimer's researcher drinks five cups a day), tea and chocolate. Beware caffeine if you are pregnant, have high blood pressure, insomnia or anxiety.
- **Red wine.** If you drink alcohol, a little red wine is most apt to benefit your aging brain. It's high in antioxidants. Limit it to one daily glass for women, two for men. Excessive alcohol, notably binge drinking, brings on Alzheimer's.
- **Two to avoid.** Sugary soft drinks, especially those sweetened with high fructose corn syrup. They make lab animals dumb. Water with high copper content also can up your odds of Alzheimer's. Use a water filter that removes excess minerals.

**Sunday, November 6th
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Christian Family Life Center (New Hall)
Ocean County Health Department
Flu Shot Clinic**

