

# Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

July/August 2017

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## A Pastor's Reflection on the Tidal Waters of Life



I occasionally take walks in my neighborhood, passing by a lagoon just a few houses from where I live. Over the years I have noticed how the lagoon's water level seems to rise and fall. This of course is due to the ebb and flow of the tides and winds that push ocean waters into the bay and ultimately this lagoon, and later pulls the water of the lagoon back toward the ocean.

Day in and day out the water of the lagoon slowly rises up against the bulkheads that define it. Then once again that water recedes as the tides return to the ocean and the winds shift. At times, there seems to be more than enough water in the lagoon to float the boats tied up along the bulkheads of those who live along it. At other times, I observe barely enough water to keep those same boats from resting on the mud and silt bottom of the lagoon.

So, it seems are our lives as individuals and as a community of faith. We've know times when there seemed plenty of water to float our boats. And we've seen times where we wondered what kept the boat keel of our lives from sinking into the mud beneath us.

One of the blessings of being a long-term pastor is that of being present as the tides of life ebb and flow – rise and fall. From the vantage point of where I sit, we've seen the tides rise as we pooled our lives and resources together in the building of the Family Life Center at our church. We rejoiced that it was there to use to help people when Sandy devastated our shore community. And we've experienced the low tide of declining numbers in members and resources over the past few years.

But life has an ebb and flow to it like the ocean, the bay, and the lagoon I walk pass. And now I see the tide beginning to shift and rise in a positive way that will lift the boat of our lives. I see a resurgence of enthusiasm in our committees with new ideas and creative approaches to things. There is a growing awareness in the larger community that the people of Brick Presbyterian Church care about the community and want to make a positive difference as we begin interfacing with community organizations in new ways. God's spirit is slowly replenishing our common life with an influx of new members eager to serve the Lord and share their gifts. The tide is coming in as this year we have seen more new members enter the church than members entering the realm beyond. By the end of this summer, we will have had more infant baptisms than we have had in some time. The tide of God's love and strength is flowing in to refill the lagoon of our common life. I see some of our members who have been out of their homes way too long, slowly moving back into their homes these many years of struggle since Sandy came ashore. Our life as a congregation and our lives as individuals have an ebb and flow.

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(A Pastor's Reflection continued from previous page)

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter" wrote the inspired author of Ecclesiastes. The Apostle Paul put it this way saying in Phil 4:12-13; "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." I am confident that as the tide of our lives is returning, God will continue to give us the strength we need to do amazing things that will glorify our Lord, and bring satisfaction, joy, and hope to each of us.

### Special Things to Anticipate this Summer in Worship



Once again, our summer worship services will be consolidated to the **10:00 a.m.** hour on Sunday for the months of **July and August along with Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> (Labor Day Weekend)**. As we gather to worship the Lord who never takes a vacation from loving us there are some special dates we hope you will note.

On **Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>** rumor has it that the American Revolutionary Preacher and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, will be traveling through time to address our congregation and celebrate the Lord's Supper with our congregation. He will be focusing on how God desires to lift from the backs of his people the forces of oppression.



On **Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** we will hold an informal worship service in the Family Life Center and enjoy a meal together. Watch Sunday Bulletins for more info on this.

On **Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** we will again hold an informal worship service in the Family Life Center and then have a time of coffee and bagels sponsored by the Worship Committee.

On **Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>** we will be back in the sanctuary and anticipate celebrating three children being baptized in to the life of faith with their families.

### Summer Child Care



A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish to provide child care during the Worship Services for the summer months. Child Care will be available for all the services except July 9 and August 13. We expect that if you wish to avail yourself of this service you will also wish to take your turn. 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. Senior citizens and Junior/Senior High School students are also welcome. The only requirement is that you enjoy children. **Thank You for helping!**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*“Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so...”* That is one of many faith formations songs many of us learned in Vacation Bible School. Indeed Vacation Bible School is one of the childhood faith learning experiences many of us warmly remember growing up. Once again this year, Brick Presbyterian Church will be offering VBS (Vacation Bible School) in our church Family Life Center on Sunday mornings August 6, 20 and 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. This should prove to be a wonderful time of learning for our young people, while giving parents an opportunity to worship in the air-conditioned comfort of our sanctuary. For more information contact: Donna Schlatter or Kindra Slater. Brick Presbyterians -- a church that's stood the test of time for over a century -- training a new generation of God's children to carry the faith into the future.



### Evangelism/Outreach

Catch a Friend Bring 'Em in Sunday  
Is **EVERY** Sunday in July & August



*Prayer in  
the Garden*



### Prayer in the Garden

Join us for Prayer in the Garden on  
**Wednesdays at 6:15pm** and **Sundays at 9:00am**  
in July and August in the Memorial Garden.

## PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR GIVING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS



Summer can be a time for kicking back and relaxing. Yet, our July and August church calendars offer a variety of ways to worship, learn and have fun during the summer months – a worship service each Sunday at 10 a.m., Vacation Bible School, Prayer in the Garden, the church picnic. Our church stands as a center of faith and a place to meet every month of the year.

With this in mind, **we encourage you to remember your pledges and continue your giving throughout the summer months.** Our building remains open and our commitment to our many avenues of fellowship and outreach depend upon your financial support every month of the year. **We depend on you and your generosity as Brick Presbyterian Church continues its work of heart for our Lord and in the community!**

- *The Stewardship and Mission Committee*

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



Thank you to everyone for supporting our June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fundraiser at LongHorn Steakhouse. We hope you enjoyed a delicious meal while helping us raise funds for various needs at BPC.

## ANNUAL FALL CHRYSANTHEMUM SALE

The Fundraising Committee will be holding our annual mum sale in late September. Sale dates will be announced shortly for these beautiful mum plants.

## BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS



During September, we will begin selling Boscov's Friends Helping Friends 25%-off shopping passes. The event will be held at all Boscov's locations on October 17, 2017. The passes are available for \$5.00 each and each pass entitles you to a 25%-off discount shopping coupon, a chance to win a \$100 or \$500 gift card and free refreshments on the day of the event.

## STREAM ENERGY

Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church if you sign up with them for savings on your gas and/or electric bills. See Patrice to find out how you can save money!



## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY - SAVE THE DATE!!



The Fundraising Committee is happy to announce that on December 6, 7 & 8, 2017 LifeTouch will be at Bick Presbyterian Church taking photos for our new church directory. Please look for details in the coming months. We are looking for new members who would like to join our Committee, or if you would like a short-term volunteering opportunity, we need YOUR help with this project!

## GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons request that you continue to help **stock the Food Pantry** by bringing in all types of non-perishable foods. Thank you to all who contribute needed items; your help is greatly appreciated.



Also, please remember to save and bring in your **empty coffee cans** for the Deacons to use to deliver the Sanctuary flowers every Sunday. Thank you!

We would like to remind the congregation that **we support our Active Military** by collecting donations of personal items that are then distributed to our service men and women as “care packages.” Please continue to bring in items. A list of suggested items may be found on the church web site.

Thank you very much for your continued support of all our missions. We wish a wonderful, safe summer for all!

## FAITHFUL REMNANTS A CRAYON INITIATIVE MISSION



Crayons belong in children's hands, not in landfills. *Crayons are not biodegradable.* Let's donate our used and unwanted crayons. This is a mission initiative that will be on going. There will be CRAYON INITIATIVE boxes in the Narthex and FLC. Crayons will be taken to A. C. Moore. The old crayons will be turned into new ones and given to children's hospitals all over the United States.

For more information, go to [www.thecrayoninitiative.org](http://www.thecrayoninitiative.org)

## THANK YOU! YOUR DONATIONS TO BLANKET SUNDAY WARM THOSE IN NEED



Thank you for your dedication to providing Blankets for Church World Service. This year, our congregation raised \$1,414 to provide CWS Blankets to people throughout the world. Thanks to you, families in emergency shelters will receive blankets when they arrive. You will help them stay warm in their time of need. You have shared God's grace with people and have made a difference in their lives. Whether struggling in the face of grinding poverty or attempting to rebuild after devastation, families are in search of warmth and comfort. When they are met with CWS Blankets, they have a tangible reminder that they are not alone. For your wonderful support of Blanket Sunday and on behalf of all the families you have helped but may never meet—**THANK YOU!**