

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

January 2024

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Church Un-Decorating



The Worship Committee will be undecorating the church after the Worship service on **January 7th, 2024**. Please consider helping for a few minutes. Thank you!

Your offering envelopes for 2024 are in the Narthex for pick up. If you would like your envelopes mailed, please let me know. You may call the church office and notify Pat, or you may call me, Karen Ellis, at 732-232-1495 or email kjellis45@gmail.com .



Please note that any donations made after December 31, 2023, will be posted to your 2024 statement. Also, if you have a change of address, be sure to contact me or the church office with your information. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING NEWS



The Fundraising Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who participated in our 2023 Fundraising efforts. We had a very successful year and are very happy to have fulfilled our committee's mission. With your help we were able to lend support to groups within our church and in the community while offering some of our tried and true events and introducing some new ideas.

Hymnal Dedications and Memorial Bricks



Please remember our ongoing fundraisers – Hymnal Dedications and Memorial Bricks, both of which are available throughout the year. These two memorials are a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one or to commemorate a special date or event!



Please see a Fundraising Committee member for order forms for either of these memorial options.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



CHURCH SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD

The Christmas Pageant was a wonderful celebration of Jesus's birth! The talents of our Church School students, staff and older students shone brightly! This year the pageant was held during the church service. The pageant was based on the children's book, *The Gift of the Animals*, by Joseph Gibson. In March, there will be part 2 as the bunny, the angel, and the animals return to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Christmas cards were created by Church School students and given to Homebound members by the Deacons.

Do you know a student between the ages of PreK and eighth grade? Encourage them to join us for Church School when their schedule permits! For further information see Lorrie Haluza or call the church office. **Child care is also available.**

But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Luke 18:16

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for an opportunity this new year? No experience needed.

Join us in Church School as a volunteer, one Sunday a month or more. Help as a Church School classroom assistant or Nursery assistant. See Lorrie Haluza or call the church office 732-477-0676.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABILITY

ATTENTION high school church members who will graduate June of 2024: The Scholarship Letter of Application will be available starting February 4th. The deadline for receipt of scholarship award applications is April 7. See Jill Moberg, Lorrie Haluza, or call the church office.



HANDS ON MISSION GROUP



all your help.

Friends, **February is National Heart Month.** We are asking for **RED** PRAYER SQUARES and **RED** BOOTIES for Babies. Instructions are available; please see Lori Evans if you need more information. Thank you for

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In times of inclement weather, especially during this winter season, or for other adverse conditions, the congregation is reminded to check the Church Website for closings, delays, and cancellations by going to www.brickpresby.com.



Please note that radio stations no longer announce weather-related closings, etc.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR PLEDGE CARD?

SHINE BRIGHT!

As of December 1, 45 pledges have been received. If you have not already returned yours, it is not too late. You may place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or send it by mail.



***“Bring your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give”
(Deuteronomy 12:6)***

so that we may continue to shine as we share God’s love at BPC and beyond.

Thank you to all who have returned your pledge cards!

MISSION & EVANGELISM UPDATE



In October, the Mission and Evangelism Committee applied for a grant from the Presbytery of the Coastlands. The award was received in December and will be used to further BPC’s outreach to the homeless community of Ocean County, including **Destiny’s Bridge.**

Destiny’s Bridge is a homeless encampment in our area. The mission of Destiny’s Bridge is to be a place where people who have found themselves without a home can heal, become strong, and empowered. For further information please go to the website at: destinysbridge.org.

The Mission and Evangelism Committee is in the process of building and organizing strategies of evangelism in our community.

Prayerfully consider joining the Mission and Evangelism Committee.

Please ask Marty Haluza or Brian Aldrich about ways that you can help.

UPDATE ON OUR MISSIONARIES



About Our Mission Coworkers Mark Hare and Jenny Bent's ministry...

At the end of 2023, BPC made a gift of \$400 to the ministry of our mission coworkers in Costa Rica, Mark Hare and Jenny Bent. A portion of the gift came from our church's retained funds from the 2022 Peace and Global Witness Special Offering.

By way of background, Jenny began partnering in 2012 with the Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana (IED) as it prioritized reaching out to the marginalized communities served by its churches. The IED invited her to begin a pilot project using Community Health Evangelism (CHE) in the community of Batey 7, one of some 15 or more settlements among the sugarcane fields of the Dominican southwest. The goal of CHE is to equip communities to identify and mobilize the resources they already have to engage with the issues they face and work for positive and sustainable change. The response of community leaders from Batey 7 was ultimately very positive, and in 2015 the IED took CHE to the national level and began introducing it to every region of the country.

Mark has been working with Presbyterian World Mission since 1997. After working in a reforestation program in Haiti for a year, he spent six years in Nicaragua focusing on developing agricultural systems and providing practical training for rural families. In 2004, he began serving in Haiti with the Farmer's Movement of Haiti (MPP) and was able to apply much of what he had learned in Nicaragua to his work at the MPP's National Training Center. Joining Mark in Haiti after their wedding in 2008, Jenny served with MPP as a volunteer in their rural health clinic. After moving to the Dominican Republic in 2012, Mark traveled to Haiti on a monthly basis, continuing to train teams of farmers in yard garden production techniques with Haitian farmer movements. He also began learning about CHE alongside Jenny and applying its holistic techniques to teaching vegetable production.

In January 2020, Jenny and Mark brought their two daughters and all that they learned from their work with Dominican and Haitian communities to Costa Rica. In their positions, they promote environmental sustainability with the Latin American Biblical University (UBL), an ecumenical seminary on the eastern edge of the San Jose municipality in Costa Rica.

At the UBL, Jenny and Mark collaborate with students, professors, administrators, and support staff to create an integrated management plan that brings together the gifts and skills of the whole university community. A critical step in developing the plan was creating a hand-drawn map of the two-acre property, a practical technique for strengthening community spirit that Mark and Jenny discovered through their CHE work in the Dominican Republic. A critical objective of this work is to nurture a common vision and mutual understanding as the group lays out workable strategies that lead the institution towards sustainable ecological practices.



HELP NEEDED

Updated for January

Are you looking for another way to share your time and talents in praise of the Glory of God? The church needs volunteers because as the Bible states, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinthians 12:26

This column will list the current needs of various BPC groups and committees, as submitted by the group leaders. **Here are a few of the wonderful opportunities available at BPC –**

Church School - Join us in Church School as a volunteer, one Sunday a month or more. No experience needed. Help as a Church School classroom assistant or Nursery assistant. See Lorrie Haluza or call the church office 732-477-0676.

Worship Committee - Members are welcome to join in the work of providing meaningful Worship of God at BPC. A wide variety of responsibilities dedicated to Worship are shared among all committee members. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Contact Tom Fortier at tfortier111@gmail.com or 848-333-2599.

The Hands On Mission Group/Outreach – Volunteers are wanted to work on some easy, fun, craft and sewing projects, such as teddy bears for Baptisms. Prayer squares (crochet or knit) which will be placed in the Brick Hospital Chapel & Shorrock Nursing Home are always needed. All projects may be done at home. Contact Coordinator Lori Evans at lmegolfer@gmail.com.

Bell Choir - Handbell Ringers are needed. Practices are held weekly on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., and the Bells play during Worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. If interested in joining this music ministry, see Bonnie Luton or call the church office at 732-477-0676.

Fundraising Committee – Seeking new members to join our fun, energetic group. Are you interested? If so, contact Linda Kathenes (848-333-5119, JLin52@comcast.net) or Lynn Mizer (732-966-6240, lmizer@comcast.net).

Communications Committee - Deacon Michael Candeloro is looking for assistance with the communications of our live feed from Sunday's Service. Please contact him if you're available at email michael.candeloro55@gmail.com.



If you are a group leader and need volunteers, simply email your info to bpcnewsletter111@gmail.com before the 15th of the month, to be included here next month.

"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY



1/1



1/15



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Donation Envelopes for 2024 now available
- Church Un-decorating - 1/7
- Scholarship Applications available - 2/4



See the [Events tab](#) on the **BPC web site** for further details.



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The Good Tidings newsletter is sent monthly to the BPC family via Constant Contact email. ***If you know of any members not currently receiving Constant Contact mailers, please have them notify the church office with their email address so they can receive future mailings.***

The Good Tidings is also available in condensed PDF format (with no personal info) on the church website.

We will continue with worship services online as well as live-streaming in the Sanctuary – please join us! These services are also on our website in case you miss one and would like to go back and watch.



On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit,
enfold me in the warmth of your love.