



Between the Bricks is the mortar that binds the individual bricks together to form a strong, unified structure. This newsletter, published for the members of the Old Brick Reformed Church, is the mortar that binds us together, and helps us to minister as a vital congregation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday
Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor

Reverend George Kaden
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OLD BRICK REFORMED CHURCH

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Between the Bricks

November-December 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Read Luke 2: 1-20, (in particular vs. 19).

As I write this, it's mid-October, and I know the holidays, in particular Christmas is still two and one half months away, but my thoughts are turning towards the holidays and the end of another year. It's hard to believe the holidays are approaching and we're already in the last quarter of 2017. Where, oh where, does the time go? The swift passing of time causes me to slow down and catch my breath and to pause and reflect on things that really matter most in my life, my faith, family, the church and the blessing each new day of life offers. I find I have so very much to be thankful for; my heart is lifted and filled with gratitude to God.

And as my thoughts turn towards Christmas, the celebration of our Savior's birth, I find myself, as with the shepherds and Magi, bowing my knees in adoration to our Lord and King. I am awestruck in Christ's presence. I marvel at the precious gift of Christ whom God has given. I am captured by the wonder of God's love revealed in Christ.

There's a lot to be said for slowing down, pausing to think, ponder and remember. That's exactly what Mary did as Luke states in vs. 19 of Luke chapter 2 following the shepherds visit to the manger. Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart". And why wouldn't she. She certainly had a lot to ponder, don't you think? And, the truth is, so do we.

A famous photograph taken by Yousuf Karsh shows the renowned Spanish cellist, Pablo Casals, with his back to the camera. Karsh recalls that he was so moved as he listened from a distance to Casals playing Bach that he could not for time attend to photography. It seemed just right to pose Casals facing away from the camera.

Years later, when Karsh's photograph of Casals was on exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, an elderly gentleman would come and stand quietly for minutes in front of it. Curious about this ritual, a curator finally asked, "Sir, why do you come here and stand in front of this picture?" The curator was met with a withering glance and the rebuke, "Hush, young man, can't you see? I'm listening to the music."

We're rapidly approaching two very wonderful holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Before these wonderful seasons come and go before we know it, let's slow ourselves down, let's pause to reflect and remember; to listen for the music of Thanksgiving and Christmas that our thoughts will center and focus on the Lord.

Listen for the music God plays in your life; there's no sweeter music to hear.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kaden

We've reached 30. Help us to reach 35!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE...

November



EVERY SUNDAY - 9:30 AM WORSHIP
10:45 AM Coffee Hour

December



- November 5** **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon from: The Rev. Paul Walther
- November 12** **Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: How Much is God Worth to You?
- November 19** **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: So Many Reasons to Give Thanks

Isaiah 9: 6 declares: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And he will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

Throughout the Advent and Christmas season, Pastor Kaden will deliver a series of messages on the titles our Messiah is given from those words; a series he's entitled:
"And He Shall Be Called....."

- November 26** **Christ the King Sunday**
Sermon: He Shall Be Called: "Wonderful"
- December 3** **The First Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: He Shall Be Called: "Wonderful Counselor"
- December 10** **The Second Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: He Shall Be Called: "Mighty God"
- December 17** **The Third Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: He Shall Be Called: "Everlasting Father"
- December 24** **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: He Shall Be Called: "Prince of Peace"
- December 24** **Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service at 7:30 pm**
Sermon: "Who is He to You?"
- December 31** **First Sunday after Christmas Day**
Sermon: Resolutions



**Come join us each Sunday morning and on Christmas Eve night as we celebrate
the birth of our Lord.**

NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone!

As I sit down to write this I realize it is the 13th of October! Wasn't it just Christmas, New Years' and July 4th last month? Time seems to go faster and faster each year. I always laughed at my Mom when she said she didn't know how she ever had time to work and now I understand.

2017 has been a busy year for Old Brick; we've had good times and bad times. But what comes to my mind first is that we are still here! This Church and Congregation was founded in 1699...318 years ago!! The actual physical church was built in 1826 (191 years ago)! I wonder how many people have come and gone? It's sad when people go, whether they move, find another church or if they pass away.....but I prefer to rejoice in the people that have come! 2017 has been a good year for growth in Old Brick...WON'T YOU JOIN US?

The year is winding down but you still have time to join us. There will be a Halloween Party, a Christmas Bazaar, the Thanksgiving Harvest Table, decorating of the sanctuary and finally Christmas. If you haven't seen Old Brick dressed up for Christmas you are missing something SPECIAL!

If I don't get to see you before the end of the year I would like to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. While not perfect we all have much to be THANKFUL for in this country. I also want to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas. I wish you Peace, Comfort and God's Grace.

See you soon, Laura Hogan, Consistory VP

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Harvest Table - Sunday, Nov. 19th

In morning worship, we'll be holding our annual Harvest Table. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the *Open Door* pantry, to be exchanged for an assortment of fruits/vegetables from the Harvest Table for you to use for your Thanksgiving meal.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Nov. 21st at 7:30p

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at the **Morganville United Methodist Church**, at 215 Conover Rd, on Tuesday, Nov. 21st at 7:30p. Come join us as we gather with other faith communities in to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Sanctuary Christmas Decorating - Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 9:30a

We could use help decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season. This is a big job, that takes a lot of work, but the sanctuary always looks wonderful! So, your assistance in helping us decorate is "greatly appreciated" thank you! And also, we'll need help to take the decorations down on Saturday, January 6th at 9:30 a. m.



Consistory & Administrative Committee Meeting - Thursday, Dec. 14th at 6:45p

The two committees will meet together with Dan Bavuso for our quarterly investment update.



Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, Jan. 21st

We will hold our meeting following worship. We hope you'll come as we'll discuss our ministry at Old Brick Reformed Church. As you know, based on Pastor Kaden's pastoral letter from October, Old Brick faces some challenges ahead. Please join us to talk about the ministry and challenges!

AND REMEMBER THE 3 P's:

PRAY (for Old Brick daily).

PRESENCE (we need your presence each week in worship).

PARTICIPATE (put your gifts & talents to use to aid our ministry)

NOTE: Annual Meeting Reports are needed by: Friday, Dec. 15th.

Daylights Savings Time is Sunday, Nov. 5th.

Remember To "Fall Back" as we turn clocks back 1 hour a 2:00 a.m.



CHURCH LIFE AND EVENTS



CPR and AED Training Classes

Steve Diguisepe and Danielle Rugnetta from Oceanside CPR held two wonderful, informative, and fun classes at Old Brick in Sept. & Oct. They taught everyone how to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies for infants, children and adults, current CPR techniques, how to use an AED, and how to help someone choking.



Halloween Party

Volharden Hall looked Scary, the food ghoulishly deliciousespecially Odette's oreo spider cooking good time! Many thanks goes to Dorothy and Sharon for a great party and Sharon for a great decorations and food.



ies, and all had a frightening effort on all the decorations.



Trash & Treasure 2017 Success

Our Trash & Treasure Sale and What a great day! "Early call- until closing at 3:00. At times ryone who worked that day, tional hours were spent by aration for the sale. Thanks to



Flea Market of Sept. 16th has come and gone. "ers" began at 8:30 and customers continued we had lines for the check out. Thanks to eve- baked or cooked for our event. Many addi- those who worked behind the scenes in prep- all! We couldn't have done it without you!

Several friendships were formed, others rekindled during the 7 months that we worked. Many more people now know where Old Brick Church is, and who we are. Of course, there is also the financial YTD bottom line: Gross income: \$3,115, Expenses: \$227, Net income: \$2,888.



Holiday Boutique and Bakery on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 12-4p

Our Holiday Boutique and Bakery will be inside Volharden Hall on Dec. 2nd. Christmas decorations, jewelry and varied gift and decorator items will be for sale. Baked goods can be purchased to eat here or take home for later use or gifting.



Join the Holiday Spirit, decorate the tree in the Sanctuary in the morning, at 9:30a and then stay for the Sale and Bakery. Make it a day at Old Brick...or just come for an hour or two. Your friends are always glad to see you!

A NOTE OF THANKS



Over the years, many people have donated their time and talents to Old Brick. I would like to THANK each of you...you know who you are. It may have seemed like a thankless job at the time, but every chore done contributes to our enjoyment of our beautiful sanctuary and Volharden Hall!"

Many thanks from Virginia, Morgan, Scott, Gretchen, "Team Virginia" in the JDRF One Walk in Avon held



Carol and Pete Van Mater to those of supported Oct. 8th. Congratulations to "Team Virginia" who

THOUGHTS & WISHES....

Wenly & Samuel Hsieh wish "Everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving Day and a Peaceful, Joyful Christmas Season"!

Happy Birthday

November: Florence Bennett, Joseph Dupuis, Ed Krogstad, Sarah Whelan, Jeanne Farano, Evelinn Nieb and Elizabeth Van Curen. **December:** Brooke Baum, John Vincent Rugnetta, Christopher Van Curen, Mary Anne Fontana, Nancy Glassey, Sharon Mahoney, Linda Millward and Jinny Milward



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

For the Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17th, the *Morganville United Methodist Choir* will be joining us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. Then our choir will travel to Morganville for their 11:00a Worship!

PIECES FROM THE PAST



Two Freehold Township Scouts earn Eagle award

As we stroll from the Sanctuary to Volharden Hall each Sunday, we pass the Worship Center in the Pine Grove, the picnic tables and bell in front of the Hall. These pieces of Old Brick history are here because of the efforts of 2 Old Brick members. Michael Wells and Benjamin Van Mater were members of Boy Scout Troop 358 from Freehold Township who, at the age of 17, chose Old Brick Church for their Eagle Scout projects.

To reach Eagle, highest rank in Boy Scouts, candidates must have already achieved the Life rank, have 21 merit badges and demonstrate significant growth. It begins with the idea, initial approvals, a Troop Committee, Scout Council and, in this more approvals, work crews, expenses and the project. Then, the final report and hope—Both Mike and Ben successfully navigated



and development. Then he undertakes next steps. write up, selling the idea to the Scout Master, the case, the Consistory. There is the plan write up, fund raisers needed, obtaining supplies and doing fully, completion. And before their 18th birthday!! this impressive course.

Michael planned, funded and created the Pine Grove Worship Center. With input from the Consistory to have the lectern facing west, his project was approved. Telephone poles were donated by JCP&L, wood by Blackstone Lumber and woodchips by Eli Kramer a local builder. A scout car wash funded additional materials. The Worship Center was completed in summer of 1988. Benjamin decided to build picnic tables for the Pine Grove and to restore and mount a bell, cast in 1870, that had been moved from the Sanctuary to the Chapel and then moved to storage. Ben went through the same achievement, approval and funding requirements. He collected aluminum cans to sell for scrap for expenses. His project was successfully completed. So, as we walk to the Hall, let's thank Scouting, specifically these 2 young church members (now men) and Eagle Scouts for their durable contribution to the Old Brick story.

FROM THE MOUSE HOUSE

Well, I am finally getting my new home at Old Brick in order. I picked up many goodies at the Trash & Treasure sale that I am really quite comfy and feel I have been here forever. Now for the Halloween Bash! While I was hunting around in search of a costume for the party, I saw **Gloria (Preston) Drogan** bring in pictures from 2 different Preston family weddings. Both were black and white group photos taken in front of the Sanctuary. Gloria said the brides were Avis Preston (married 1942 to Ira Warne) and Harriet Preston (married 1940 to James Thompson). Avis and Harriet were sisters and also aunts to Gloria and **Candee (Preston) Stattel**. So, next time you are in Volharden Hall, take a look at the bulletin board. I think the plan was to post the pictures there with some additional names and dates. This makes me feel so "at home." I wonder if Granma Mouse knew Avis or Harriet—or if she was even at the weddings.



Hugs to all, C.Mouse

MEETINGS, ETC.

November

Thursday, 9th: Consistory - 7p

Thursday, 16th: Strategy Committee - 7p

Sunday, 19th: Old Brick Thanksgiving Harvest Table

December

Saturday, 2nd: Sanctuary Christmas Decoration at 9:30a & Holiday Boutique/Bakery 12p

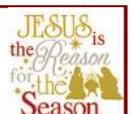
Thursday, 7th: Quarterly Admin. & Consistory Mtg - 6:45p

Thursday, 16th: Strategy Committee Mtg - 7p

Sunday, 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7:30p



Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a most meaningful Advent and Christmas Season to come.



November 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 Choir (6p) C. Scouts Ldr Mtg (7p)	3	4
5 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30 a C. Scouts (6p)	6 B. Scouts (7p)	7	8 W. Workers (7p)	9 Consistory Mtg (7p) Choir (6p)	10	11
12 Worship 9:30a	13 B. Scouts (7p)	14	15	16 Strat. Cmte Mtg. (7p) Choir (6p)	17	18
19 Worship 9:30a Harvest Table Quilting Etc. 1p C. Scouts (6p)	20 B. Scouts (7p)	21 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:30p (at MUMC)	22	23 Happy  Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Worship 9:30a	27 B. Scouts (7p)	28 Aspen (6:30p)	29	30 Choir (6p)		

December 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2  Decorate Church (9:30a) Holiday & Bake Sale (12p)
3 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30a Advent Begins	4 B. Scouts (7p)	5	6	7 Admin & Consistory Qtrly Mtg (6:45p)	8	9
10 Worship 9:30 a 2nd Sunday Advent	11 B. Scouts (7p)	12	13 W.Workers (7p)	14 Strategy Mtg. (7p) Choir (6p)	15	16
17 Worship 9:30a 3rd Sunday Advent C. Scouts (6p)	18 B. Scouts (7p)	19	20	21 Choir (6p)	22	23
24 Worship 9:30a 4th Sunday Advent Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7:30p)	25 	26 Aspen Mtg (6:30-8:30p)	27	28	29 Eagle Scout Ceremony (Sanctuary & Hall)	30
31 Worship 9:30 a NEW YEAR'S EVE						

Old Brick Reformed Church

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First Class

Quotes.....

Near the end of her life, Frances Ridley Havergal jotted down every day on a little calendar something - often just a little thing - for which she thanked God. It was her way of THINKING ABOUT THANKING. Not a bad idea.

- Robert J. Morgan

"If God's gifts and benefits were more sparing and close-handed, we should learn to be thankful....The greater God's gifts and works, the less they are regarded".

- Martin Luther

The incarnation is in itself an unfathomable mystery, but it makes sense of everything else that the New Testament contains.

- J. I. Packer

"Let us not flutter too high, but remain by the manger and the swaddling clothes of Christ, in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily".

- Martin Luther

Our Mission

We are the people of God committed to doing the work of Christ in our congregation, our community, and the world.

Our Vision

As we walk on our journey of faith together we will seek opportunities to share our resources, respond to need, and welcome growth to show God's love for all. We will do so by the giving of our gifts and talents for the glory of God.

Our Values

Perseverance, Support, Faith,
Sharing, Caring, Praying