



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:

Monday
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Pastor

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Between the Bricks

Fall 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

As I prepare this article it's September 16, just a few days following the 20th anniversary of the terrible September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on our nation. Those of us who lived through that terrible day will never forget how trying that painful experience was.

There is much we shall always remember about September 11, the day that "changed America" as it has been called. Whenever any of us think back to the day we remember how beautiful it was; it was a magnificent late summer day. Also, the vivid remembrance of planes crashing into the towers, the Pentagon and also the plane crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania will forever be etched in our memory. We remember watching in horror as the buildings crumbled and soot covered people ran away from the towers in terror.

And yet, even with the magnitude of loss we all experienced that morning, one thing will forever stand out in my mind, the sight of first responders, firefighters, police officers, and others, rushing towards the smoldering buildings to help people in need. Surely, they knew how much their lives would be at risk and yet in spite of this reality, it did not deter them. This did not deter them from courageously storming forward towards the burning structures and up darkened staircases. Their courage shall always stir my soul with assurance, strength and pride.

When Moses sent the spies out to look over the land of Canaan, he instructed them to, "Be of good courage" (Numbers 13:20). They went into Canaan under God's direction so they could be of good courage. Paul told the persecuted Christians in the city of Ephesus to, "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Paul knew they were engaged in God's mission of spreading the Gospel and planting churches.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORS DESK...

When you are following God's leading obediently, you can face any circumstance including death, with courage and hope.

Courage, for the Christian, comes from knowing the Good Shepherd, the Great Physician, our Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, "Be of good courage". Regardless of your circumstance, whether it is illness or disease, uncertainty, or despair, "be strong in the Lord" because he is always with you and his mighty power is your strength.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor George

NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I Samuel Chapter 7 vs. 3 – Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and Serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

Revelation Chapter 4 vs. 11 – "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Have you considered what it means to have an "Open Heart"? Recently I've been thinking about this in terms of the Bible, but also in terms of my life and the Church's life. To me, being open means being ready to receive. An open vessel is ready to receive water, nourishment, or whatever sustaining presence that can fill it up. When the vessel is closed, there is no chance to fill it and the sustaining liquid spills out on the floor, wasted. By the same token, when our hearts are closed to the sustaining blessings of the Lord, those blessings spill out on the floor and are wasted.

So how do we maintain an "Open Heart"? Samuel told the Israelites to prepare their hearts for the Lord by putting away false gods so that they might receive the blessings from the One True God. They opened their hearts to the Lord and the Lord subsequently blessed them with victories over their enemies. From our standpoint, when we proclaim that The Lord is worthy to receive glory and honor, we are opening our hearts and minds to receive all the blessings that the Lord Jesus Christ has in store for us. So, I say, open your heart to the Lord and proclaim his name to the world. The blessings you receive may surprise you, but they will certainly sustain you.

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NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT...

Do you know what else is open? The Old Brick Reformed Church Sanctuary has opened its doors to receive worship once more. Come and receive the word of the Lord, and all the blessings that come along with knowing the word. Come, offer praise to the One True God, for He truly is worthy. Come, visit friends you haven't seen in a while and make new friends you haven't met before. It's all here waiting for you.

Over the summer, The Old Brick Reformed Church Consistory has been working to find opportunities to maintain and improve our Church. Because of pastoral trends which find clergy seeking their own living quarters, plus the significant number of repairs needed for the Sanctuary itself, we made the decision to place the manse property, owned by the church, for sale. The process of fixing up the manse and its grounds has already begun. The moneys from the sale of the property will be placed in trust to continue maintenance on the Church as well as providing financial security for Old Brick going forward. I will keep you posted on the progress of the sale.

On a sad note, The Consistory has agreed to the Dissolution of the Call for Pastor George, effective mid-October. What does this mean? The RCA requires that Pastors retire officially from the clergy at age 70. That doesn't mean that Pastor George is no longer our Pastor. On the contrary, The Consistory has negotiated a contract with Pastor George and Classis so that he will remain our Pastor under contract for at least another year. We want to extend our sincere thanksgivings for all the hard work and service Pastor George has given the Old Brick Reformed Church in the past Nine years. We look forward to our continued relationship for as long as he is able. Thank You Pastor George!

Hoping to see you all in Church soon, with prayers and blessings for the whole congregation,

Thomas Bynoe
VP of Consistory

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Begins on Sunday November 28:

The Advent season begins on Sunday, November 28th and we are again looking for volunteers to do an "Advent reading" around the Advent wreath at the beginning of worship. We will also be looking for volunteers to do a reading on Christmas Eve night, Friday, December 24 at 7:30 pm. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact our Office Administrator, Sharon Sanicola at 732-946-8860 to let us know of your interest. Thank you.

OUR OLD BRICK CHURCH LIFE AND EVENTS

Exciting News:

We are planning to welcome into membership a few friends who have been worshipping with us for quite a while now. On Sunday, October 31 we will be welcoming the following people into the membership: John Jones (Danielle Jones Rugnetta's father), Beverly Shonk, and Lauren and Zack Williams and their children, Zane and Nadia. Dear friends, we are so delighted to welcome you into our Old Brick Reformed Church family.

Memorial Service Remembrance:

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, a memorial service was held at the Quaker meeting house in Randolph, New Jersey for a long-time member of Old Brick Reformed Church, Mary Brotherton. Mary's husband John (?) was a Quaker and John and Mary attended the Quaker meeting on occasion. Pastor George participated in this remembrance of Mary's life. Mary was a dedicated servant of Christ and faithful member of Old Brick Reformed Church for many years. We commend her to the care of Almighty God.



Return of Sunday School

Sunday school parents, teachers, and children gathered outside Volharden Hall after worship on Sunday, September 26th to discuss Covid protocols for the new Sunday school year. Following a lesson by Ms. Melody Chen those attending talked about Sunday school and made the following decision (s): First, Sunday School will be meeting outdoors in the grove weather permitting, otherwise it is held inside Volharden Hall. Second, whenever Sunday School gathers in Volharden hall, everyone is asked to wear a mask. We hope you understand their concerns and will abide by their recommendations, thank you.

The Parsonage on 10 Hobart Street:

Most of you are aware Old Brick owns a house that has served as the Churches parsonage for many years. However, the parsonage has been vacant for a while and has not housed a clergy family in a number of years. A vast majority of clergy these days are opting for a housing allowance and purchasing their own home. That being said, the consistory petitioned the Classis for approval to sell the manse at 10 Hobart Street. This action will in no wise hinder or deter Old Brick from continuing to call pastors to serve the Church. The consistory has secured, Dan Alsalameh, (Daniel is John Esau's father) as our realtor to represent us. We will keep you informed of our progress.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE...



Every Sunday - 9:30 AM



October 3: **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: If Only.....



October 10: **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Church as Community

October 17: **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Renew Your Commitment to God

October 24: **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Revive Your Commitment to Service

October 31: **Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Revitalize Your Relationship with Christ

November 7: **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Rebuild the Church

November 14: **Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: For the Sake of Christ

November 21: **Christ the King Sunday**
Sermon: Hold Fast to the Truth

November 28: **First Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: A Touch of Love



December 5: **Second Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: A Touch of Peace

December 12: **Third Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: A Touch of Hope

December 19: **Third Sunday of Advent**
Sermon: A Touch of Joy

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thanksgiving Harvest Table:

Old Brick will celebrate Thanksgiving on 11/22/22.

As in the past we will have a Harvest Table set up at the front of the church. You will each have an opportunity to take an item from the table to use for your Thanksgiving meal. In return we ask (if you are able) to bring in non-perishable food items that will be delivered to Open Door.

Holidays are especially hard on people's food budget....especially those with children. Many of us are extremely fortunate and I'm hoping we can share that with those less fortunate. What a great time to show our THANKS for what God has given us!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to each of you!

Sanctuary Decorating for Christmas:

We are scheduling our sanctuary Christmas decorating for Saturday, December 4th at 9:30 AM. Boy Scout Troop 86 will again be assisting. If you'd like to help, please come and join us.

Operation Christmas:

Operation Christmas Child is back! We will be continuing our almost 20 year support of this vital mission sponsored by Franklin Graham's organization, Samaritan's purse. It is a great joy to provide a special gift of new toys and everyday items to needy children around the world.

Empty Boxes are located in the front room of the Sanctuary. Please follow the guidelines listed in the enclosed pamphlet and DO NOT include the following things: Used or old items, liquids/lotions, gels, toothpaste, food/candy or glass. Please remember to attach one of the labels choosing a boy or a girl and an age range.

Return boxes to the Sanctuary by November 7th and Thank you for the blessing of your continued support and generosity.

Quilting Group:

Hi Everyone! It has been about 2 years since the Quilting Group met. I had to drop out because of Bill's health and then Covid came along. A few of us met last week....it was so nice to meet and socialize with OBRC family and friends!

Hoping you can join us on the second Sunday of the month at 1:00. October 10th will be the next meeting. The tables will be set up so you can social distance and of course you are welcome to wear a mask.

Looking forward to seeing you, Laura Hogan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open Door:

As most of you know Open Door is the local Food Pantry in Freehold (on Throckmorton St). We at Old Brick, along with other local churches, have pledged our support to Open Door. Open Door is listed on our weekly giving envelopes as well as being in rotation as one of our Mission of the Month.

In the past Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month) was always designated as a day to bring in non-perishable food items. I know we have all seen a rise in food prices since Covid came into our lives.....but I'm hoping we can each find a couple of extra dollars in our food budget to purchase much needed food items. Beans, canned meat, soups, cereal, peanut butter, etc., can help stretch the family budget for our local needy.

Thank you for your generosity!

Laura Hogan

Choir

Choir rehearsal will begin on Sunday, October 10th after morning worship!
Approximate length of practice 10:30-11:15. We welcome new members.



Love Lifts Us Up Meeting and Information:

Old Brick continues to support the efforts of the Love Lifts Us Up mission that Old Brick established at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. This ministry provides assistance to poor and needy families that have a seriously ill child in the Pediatric, Neonatal or Pediatric Intensive Care units at Jersey Shore. To date Love Lifts Us Up has assisted, in their 3 ½ years of existence, well over 200 families providing all sorts of baby items to help. All total LLUU has given away somewhere between \$40,000-\$50,000 worth of baby items, gift and Uber cards to help needy families.

You, the Old Brick Reformed Church family cannot be thanked enough for the help you offer, the prayer support you provide and the love and concern for seriously ill children and their families that you so generously give. We thank you. God bless you. If you'd like to help or send a financial donation, please call Pastor George and let him know of your interest or send your financial gifts to:

Love Lifts Us Up, P. O. Box 382, Ocean Grove, New Jersey 07756

Love Lifts Us Up is a 501c3 non-profit. All your gifts are tax deductible.



Old Brick Reformed Church

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First Class

Questions...

Some critical questions Jesus asked for us to think about.

“Who do you say that I am?”

Matthew 16:15

“Where Is your faith?”

Luke 8:25

“What is the kingdom of God like?”

Luke 13:18

“Do you believe this?”

John 11: 26

“Will you lay down your life for me?”

John 13: 38

“Do you love me?”

John 21: 15-17

“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”
Matthew 27: 46

Take a look at the passages surrounding these questions to determine the answers.

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