



Between the Bricks

January/February 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

1 Corinthians 4: 20 "Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found faithful".

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
pastor@oldbrickchurch.org

Director of Music

Edward L. Krogstad
krogorgan@aol.com

Administrator

Diane Randolph
secretary@oldbrickchurch.org

Webmaster

Thomas Bynoe
Webmaster
@oldbrickchurch.org

OLD BRICK REFORMED CHURCH

490 County Rt. 520

P.O. Box 153

Marlboro, NJ 07746

Phone: (732) 946-8860

Fax: (732) 946-9254

<http://www.oldbrickchurch.org>

I'm sure you're all aware that our congregation here at Old Brick Church holds membership in the Reformed Church in America, the RCA. The Reformed Church in America is the oldest Protestant denomination in the United States. It is also a rather small denomination with a total membership of approximately 220,000. Even though it's relatively small, the RCA is a wonderful denomination with a great heritage and a strong sense of mission. Visit the RCA.org website to learn more about the RCA, the denomination in which we hold membership.

Each year congregations, as part of their obligation to the RCA, are required to submit an annual report concerning our church life. In the report we're asked some statistical information such as the number of confessing and non-confessing members, the number of families in the congregation and the number of active and inactive members we have on our Church rolls. We also report the number of baptisms we've celebrated, as well as the number of new members we received, the number of those who have died, and those who have transferred their membership to other places. While sometimes tedious, those reports are helpful to folks in the higher judicatories to gauge how our denomination is doing nationally and in various regions of the country.

I'm sure you'd agree with me while statistics do shed some light on trends and the direction where, generally, things are heading, in and of themselves statistics don't really provide a full picture of the success or lack thereof of a particular church's ministry. For example, in my 41 years of ministry, I've seen congregations, many in fact, that were small and struggling accomplish incredible things for the Kingdom of God. Some created Christian schools in urban communities, some churches created food pantries, or became senior citizen community centers. Others established drug rehabilitation centers and many other remarkable ministries for Christ. I've also seen, sadly, some large churches with huge memberships that were stale, dry and lifeless. Statistics, while they have their place, never accurately measure the true spiritual health of a congregation.

The really important issue is this: Are we faithful to the Lord personally, as individuals, and corporately as a congregation? Are we committed to Christ and to advancing His Kingdom? Are we devoted to prayer, worship, the study of scripture, and yielded to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? And, are we faithfully using the gifts and talents the Lord has given us for the glory of God? Paul tells us the most significant criteria for a follower of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 4: 20 he says: "Moreover it is required of stewards, (that is those entrusted with their Master's possessions, that's you and me), that they be found faithful, or, trustworthy".

Faithfulness is God's requirement for individuals and churches. I'd like to think if our Lord were to assess our ministry here at Old Brick, examining all that we do, how we relate to Him and interact with one another, He'd commend us and say: "Well done, good and faithful servants"... "Stay the course!" "Keep on doing what you're doing". "Remain faithful and leave the rest to me".

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kaden

WORSHIP SCHEDULE...

January

EVERY SUNDAY - 9:30 AM WORSHIP

February

**Happy
New Year!**

10:45AM Coffee Hour



January 8

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: He Must Increase

**Pastor Kaden Sermons Series: "Our Lord's Incredible Skill as a Teacher:
(Jan, 15th, 22nd, & 29th) Join Us.**

January 15

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Jesus: An Incredible Teacher

January 22

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Jesus' Challenging Lessons

Old Brick Church Annual Congregational Meeting Following worship.

A light luncheon will be served.

January 29

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Jesus' Challenging Lessons (2)

February 5

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

BOY SCOUTS Sunday

Sermon: 007 Christians

February 12

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany - Communion

Love Sunday

Sermon: The King's Manifesto

Pastor Kaden New Sermon Series: Blessed Are....

February 19

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: The Poor in Spirit

February 26

Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: Those Who Mourn

NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Can You Believe 2016 Is Over????



It was a mixed year for Old Brick. We are thrilled we had some new faces join our family, we baptized some children (and that's always fun) and we had weddings, but sadly we lost people as well. When you think about it, life is the same...it's made up of highs and lows. Whatever kind of year you had, please consider spending Sunday's with us at Old Brick! We will laugh with you, celebrate with you, or cry with you...WE WILL BE THERE FOR YOU! For 2017, I hope and pray that your lows don't exceed your highs. I wish you and yours a Happy and Healthy 2017!

Blessings,
Laura Hogan, Consistory VP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Old Brick Church Congregational Meeting - Jan. 22nd

We hope you'll make every effort to join us following our morning worship hour on Sunday, January 22nd 2017, for our Annual Congregational Meeting. In our discussions we'll approve the 2017 Budget, vote on nominations to Consistory for the offices of Elder and Deacon, reflect on our ministry last year, and talk about our hopes for the future, as well as attending to other matters. We value your input. Each of you contributes to the blessings we enjoy at Old Brick so come and share in this meaningful time as we strive to move our congregation forward in ministry and mission. A light luncheon will be served before we begin the meeting. Thanks in advance for your attendance.

Please note the following people have been nominated for offices of Elder and Deacon: Laura Hogan, Elder -Class of 2019, Linda Millward, Elder- Class of 2017, Barbara Tilton, Deacon- Class of 2019. They will be Installed on Sunday, February 19th.

Two "Special" Sunday's "Back to Back" That You Won't Want To Miss!!

BOY SCOUTS SUNDAY- February 5th

Boy Scouts Sunday is scheduled for Sunday morning, February 5th at 9:30 am. That morning we'll welcome Cub and Boy Scout Troop #86. Following worship we're all invited to a luncheon sponsored by the Boy Scout Troop.

LOVE SUNDAY, February 12th

Please plan to join us on Sunday, February 12th as we celebrate "Love Sunday" an annual tradition here at Old Brick. After worship, we are treated to a luncheon that Sharon Mahoney always prepares for us to enjoy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christmas Decorations - Saturday, Jan 7th



Please help us on Saturday, January 7th at 10 am, as we will be packing up the Christmas decorations . It shouldn't take more than an hour of your time.

Thank you all in advance!

Old Brick Church - Trash & Treasure Event 2017

As you set up your calendar for 2017, please remember to save Saturday, September 16th for our "Trash & Treasure" Event. **T&T 2017 HAS BEGUN!** Donations have already been added to the select items saved from the 2016 sale. But, as before, there is always room and need for more "stuff".

Last year was amazing! So, I call on each of you again to "clear the clutter" and help keep an eye out for friends and family with spare items available for donation. **Everything helps!** (Please no clothing or used stuffed animals). Our focus for the next few months will be **collect, collect, collect** and the rest of the plan will evolve as we go. Our 2017 event will be similar to the one last year, but with a few new twists and turns along the way. Your ideas and you assistance are always welcome.

Please bring your donations to the collection area inside Volharden Hall. If you are not able to transport your items, just call the Church office (732-946-8860) and we can make arrangements for pick up.



Consistory Meeting Dates:

January Meeting is Thursday, January 12th at 7pm

February Meeting is Thursday February 9th at 7pm

Quilting, Etc.



Quilting, Etc., group meets the third Sunday of each month from 1-3p. All are invited to enjoy some crafting and socializing. No experience needed.

Next meetings are: January 15th & February 19th.

A NOTE OF THANKS



We extend our sincere thanks to Ed Krogstad, the chancel choir, to Janet Kaden, to all of our Advent and Christmas Eve candle lighters, to those who read for us in worship, to all who helped decorate and take down the Christmas decorations, to Ken Stattel and Jill Lambert, to all who helped with the luminaries and to everyone else who in some way contributed to the very lovely Advent and Christmas season we recently celebrated.



Please accept our gratitude.

In December, Old Brick Church had some help from the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop #86. The Boy Scouts had fun helping Old Brick Members decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. The Sanctuary looked beautiful! The Cub Scouts also spent a few hours outside in the cold to clean up leaves and remove branches from the Church grounds. We really appreciate their time and help to make Old Brick Church and the cemetery grounds look special for the Christmas Holiday!



NOTES FROM THE LOFT...

Two of our youngest members, ***Kammi and Anna Haeusser***, will be playing the *Prelude* and *Postlude* during worship in January. Both have been studying piano with Edward Krogstad, and will make their debut on our pipe organ!!



We are also very happy to welcome 2 new members to our Chancel Choir:
Carol Schreier and Sarah Bentivenga.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

***"May the spirit of the season of New year fill your heart,
with serenity and peace,
Wish you a happy new year 2017!"***

January 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Worship 9:30a Holy Communion	2	3 C. Scouts (7p)	4	5	6	7 Take down Christmas decorations
8 Worship 9:30a	9 Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)	10	11 Woodworkers (7p)	12 Consistory Mtg (7p)	13 C. Scouts (7p)	14
15 Worship 9:30a Quilting Etc. (1-3p)	16 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)	17 C. Scouts (7p)	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 9:30a Annual Congregational Mtg.	23 Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)	24 Aspen Grp (6:30-8:30p)	25	26	27 C. Scouts (7p)	28
29 Worship 9:30a	Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)					

February 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
					C. Scouts (7p)	
5 Worship 9:30 a BOY SCOUTS SUNDAY	6 Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts 7p)	7 C. Scouts (7p)	8 Woodworkers (7p)	9 Consistory Mtg (7p)	10 C. Scouts (7p)	11
12 Worship 9:30 a LOVE SUNDAY	13 Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)	14 	15	16	17	18
19 Worship 9:30 a Quilting , Etc. (1p-3p)	20 <i>Presidents Day</i> Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)	21 C. Scouts (7p)	22	23	24 C. Scouts (7p)	25 Volharden Hall Baby Shower (12-5p)
26 Worship 9:30 a	20 Chancel Choir rehearsal (6p) B. Scouts (7p)	28 Aspen Grp (6:30-8:30p)				

Old Brick Reformed Church

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490 Route 520

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First Class

QUOTES OF THE MONTH.....

Of the incredible ability our Lord possessed to teach the chief priests who were sent to arrest Him said: "Never has a man ever spoken like this". Jesus was a remarkable teacher. Commenting about this an unknown author wrote the following:

"Hushed be the noise and the strife of the schools,
Volume and pamphlet, sermon and speech, The lips
of the wise, and the prattle of fools; Let the Son of
Man teach!

Who has the key of the future but He? Who can unravel the knots of the skein? We have struggled and travailed and sought to be free: We have travailed in vain.

Bewildered, dejected, and prone to despair, To Him, as at first, do we turn and beseech: "Our ears are all open! Give heed to our prayer! O Son of Man, teach!"

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