

August 2012

Brookside News

Upcoming Dates:

- Wed. Aug 24, Middle School youth Pool Party.
- Tues, Sept 4, Senior High Pool Party.
- Sunday, September 9, Sunday School begins
- Sunday, Sept. 9, Worship at 10:00
- Wed., Sept. 12, Orientation for Confirmation Parents.
- Next time BCC works at the Soup Kitchen: Saturday, Sept 15.

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Brookside Community Church: No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Worship Time Changes to 10:00 AM 9/9/12

“Oh, The times, they are a changin’.”

On Sunday, September 9 we will begin worship at 10:00 A.M. We hope the change will alleviate scheduling stress on Sunday mornings and open the choir to new members. Charles Prestinari and Gwen Rosenblatt along with Pastor Joel intend to

coordinate our music programming to enable more people to participate and also reduce the workload for the adult choir. On Sundays when the children's choir or youth choir sings, the adult choir will have that week off. All choirs will rehearse on Sunday morning and will no longer require

mid-week rehearsal. The adult choir will begin their rehearsal on Wednesday, September 5 to prepare for their opening Sunday on the 9th. Following that week the adult choir will rehearse Sunday mornings at 8:30.

Youth And Confirmation Class News

Middle School To begin our school year, the middle school youth (grades 5, 6, 7, 8) will gather at the home of Frank and Nancy Vigilante, 5 Woodland Road in Brookside for a pool party.

Middle School Pool Party: Wednesday, August 29, 5-7 P.M. The middle school youth group will meet the first and third Sundays of the month.

First meeting: Sunday, September 16 at 4:00 P.M. Casterline Cafe

Senior High

The senior high pool party will take place at the home of Michele and Kevin James, 17 Saddle Hill Road, Far Hills.

Senior High Pool Party: Tuesday, September 4, 7-9 P.M.

Senior high youth group will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

First meeting: Sunday, September 9, at 4:00 P.M. Casterline Café

Confirmation Class

The 8th Confirmation Class starts with a parent orientation session on Wednesday, September 12, at 7:00 P.M. Scialla Hall. First confirmation class: Wednesday, September 19th, 6-7 P.M. Scialla Hall.



Baptism at Harmony Brook. On May 12, 2012, Rev. Joel Biggers baptized eight youth from our congregation in the brook in front of the home of Beth and Jess Smith. Their home was the original parsonage for BCC in the 1920s.



Choir Director Search

The search committee for our new organist/adult choir director is well underway. When Dave Sampson announced his retirement after 31 years at the helm, we were fortunate to have current organist Chuck Prestinari agree to take over Dave's position. The council and choir agreed to combine the

two positions (organist and choir director) into one. Chuck agreed to take on both roles until he leaves in January 2013 to take on the leadership as choral master for the San Diego opera.

This gives BCC a few months to find a new director/organist. We hope to gather resumes

in September and begin the interview process in October. The job will soon be posted on our website as well as in periodicals and other music and school websites. Please encourage any interested people to send their resumes to the church office or to brooksidechurch@verizon.net.

Appalachia Service Project

We are excited that Marc and Pat Behnke are willing to spearhead our first Appalachia Service Project trip during the summer of 2013. ASP is for youth, age 14 and up, who have completed their freshman year of high school. ASP sends out teams of seven people consisting of

two adults and five youth. Each work team spends five days working at the homes of various families of Kentucky, West Virginia, or Tennessee. ASP provides housing at area schools, showers, and meals. We hope to send 2 or 3 teams next summer.

For the ASP trip, there will be numerous team building and fund raising events. This is an endeavor for our entire congregation. There is an introductory session Sunday, September 16th, following worship.

Altizio Begins as New Christian Education Director

We welcome Sandra Altizio as our new director of Christian Education. Sandra and her husband Sergio joined Brookside Community Church in January of 2011, along with their son David, a sophomore, and daughter, Jaclyn, who begins her freshman year.

Sandra was previously a member of the Mission Committee and she did an exemplary job of supervising our trips to the soup kitchen in Morristown. Her organizational skills, energy, and enthusiasm make her a great fit for the Christian education goals at Brookside.

Sandra officially began work on August 21, 2012. She will work 20 hours a week, and her responsibilities are overseeing the Sunday school and youth programs.

Relationship Begins with Cheshire Homes

Our relationship with Cheshire Homes in Florham Park continues to grow. This facility provides a home and educational training for individuals who are paraplegic or quadriplegic. Some of the residents move toward independent living while others live at the facility for years. Last spring we collected a variety of clothing and bedding for one of the residents. We are currently investigating

the possibility of arranging piano lessons for that individual.

Pictured to the right are BCC members Catharina Litgens, Susanne Bernt, Sandra Altizio, and Pastor Joel. They formed a work team to paint two of the bedrooms for the residents of Cheshire Homes.

Thanks to Dave Oiumet and the Mission Committee for finding

this great opportunity for all of us to serve!



Work crew at Cheshire Home #2: Catharina Litgens, Susanne Bernt, Sandra Altizio, and Joel Biggers

BCC Youth Lend a Hand to Denville Habitat 4 Humanity

Twenty youth and adults from Brookside Community Church contributed their time and skills at the Denville, NJ, Habitat for Humanity site. For three days, our crew painted, hung cabinets, and placed tile. A six unit condo complex will soon be ready for new residents to move into this fall. Steven Byrne, along with Mission Committee members, Dave Oiumet, Debbie DeHaven, Megan

Byrne, and Sandra Altizio, organized a wonderful opportunity for youth to give back to the community.

On Wednesday, June 28, the Christian Education Committee, led by Judy Schryver, prepared a pasta dinner for the workers. The Behnke Family gave a presentation to whet our appetite for our 2013 mission trip to the Appalachia Service Project next summer. The three-day work project concluded with a pool party for the workers at

the home of Michelle and Kevin James.

Others who gave of their time during this week were: John Wilson, David, Gwen Matthew and Jennifer Rosenblatt, Meg Byrne, Megan Behnke, Sophie and Travis Maki, Jaclyn Altizio, Katie Wisotsky, Danny and Chris Bernt, Troy Browse, Rebecca MacLean, and Brent Michaels.

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"For three days, our crew painted, hung cabinets, and placed tile."

Our New Soprano

"It is our hope that we can hand the new choir director a strong and vibrant choir."

Based on recommendations from Dave Sampson and Chuck Prestinari, we have hired Nancy Watson-Baker to sing as a lead soprano. She will begin singing with us in September and remain through the Christmas season. At

that time, we will assess where we are musically and determine if she will continue in that capacity.

Nancy's vocal leadership will help the choir transition through this interim time. We have many faithful and strong singers, and we

plan to maintain a tradition of vibrant music ministry. BCC is blessed with a depth of musical talent and excellent leadership.

Growth Committee Makes BCC Festive

"It was estimated that close to 50 adults, youth, and children gathered...."

Two events highlighted the summertime as opportunities for us as a congregation to enjoy each other's company. To kick off summer, a wine and cheese event was held at the community center in Brookside. Roughly 40 people attended what turned out to be a very enjoyable time.

We concluded summertime fun with an all church barbeque on Friday, August 17. It was estimated that close to 50 adults, youth, and children gathered to

eat traditional summer time fare.

The evening concluded with Brookside Bible Trivial. Teams were formed according to the month in which people were born. Each team then answered the 20 questions together.

The most missed one was, "which one is not a book of the Bible? A. Nahum B. Habakkuk C. Hezekiah D. Philemon. (The correct answer is C).

Mary Helms, Kris West,

and Cathy James claimed the top prize with 19/20.

There is talk of offering other social opportunities for us to get to know each other.

Much thanks to the Growth Committee for their effort.

Second Hour Forum Returns

In the spring we started an adult class designed to bring a diverse array of topics for discussion to the church. Dave Sampson led a class on composing, Dick Patton on cosmology, and a local farmer on community supported agriculture. The class will reconvene on Sunday, September 16 following worship. Marc and Pat Behnke will begin with information on the Appalachia Service Project. Other presenters for the fall will be Mark Texel on the park system, Karen Lundgren on compassion, and Mark Williams on child sexual abuse. Contact Betsy Hendrick or Pastor Joel with topic suggestions.

Youth Talent and Auction Raise Money for Missions

In May and June, Brookside Community Church raised a combined \$6,500 for various charities and mission programs. Debbie Repogle did her usual wonderful job of organizing a silent auction that raised over \$5,000 for youth mission trips. Gwen Rosenblatt

did an equally impressive job of preparing the musical talent of our senior high youth for their Kopila Valley Concert; the funds from their concert support Maggie Doyne's school in Nepal.

BCC by the Numbers

We are pleased to announce that all of our bills are paid and we survived the summer! Often giving drops during the summer, but Treasurer Jon McAleney reports that pledge commitments held strong this year.

Average attendance in July and August, traditionally our lowest average attendance, jumped this year to 58.25, up from 35.16 in 2011, and 36.0 in 2010. From January through June, our attendance is also up averaging 115 per Sunday. Here are averages from previous years: 99 in 2005, 98 in 07, 94 in 09, 83 in 2011.

It appears we will meet our budgeted church obligations if we maintain this pace through the end of year.

There are several maintenance projects to which we can attend if financial support remains strong. Please continue to remember BCC in your giving. Every dollar helps.

Ann Frank once said, "No-one every became poor by giving."

*Judy Herndon, Ken and Kris West,
Herb Pennoyer, Mary Helms, and
Geore LaRoza, enjoy the BBQ on
8/17/12*



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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.brooksidechurch.org

Summer Fun with Somerset Patriots

On June 16, thirty-five members of our Brookside Community Church family enjoyed an evening at the Somerset Patriots' ballpark.

Kim and Steve Labold did an excellent job of scheduling the event and arranging for tickets. Highlight of the evening: the Pettine family passed funnel cake throughout our section and we all devoured it!

Welcoming Nolan Martin Smith and other Baptism News

On Sunday, August 19, it was a joy to baptize Nolan Martin Smith, born November 1, 2011. Nolan is the son of Loryn and Jeff Smith, and the grandson of Martin and Linda Steenbock.

Other children we have baptized this year: Cooper Enama, son of Cindy and Jonathan, Ella Lewis daughter to Natalie and Grant and granddaughter to Marlys and Gary, Garrett Hunt, son of Lindsay Bockoven

and Christopher Hunt, and great grandson of Florence.

We also had numerous baptism for non-infants. In what Pastor Joel called one of the most special days of his ministry, eight youth were baptized in the brook in front of the home of Jess and Beth Smith. The youth ranged in age from 2nd grade to a junior in high school. Those baptized on May 12 were: Sophie and Travis Maki, Katie and Matthew Wisotsky, Sophie and Grace Pettine, Ross Pollack, and Matthew

McAleney.

For this event, each youth was given the options of baptism by sprinkling (a few drops on the forehead), pouring (having a full pitcher poured on the head), or full immersion. Pouring was the most common and Travis Maki bravely chose full immersion. Even though the stream was rather low, we did find a place to lay him flat in the stream and let water flow over him!

A special thanks to Barbara Wisotsky our "in house" calligrapher for making the certificates.

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