

Brookside Community Church

May 2013

Rev. Joel Biggers, Pastor
Nancy Vigilante, Editor



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What is a Progressive Congregation?

What does it mean to say that I am a “progressive” Christian? Four years ago I enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program through Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. During that time, I have taken eight classes on various topics and now it is time to research my own thesis, “The Progressive Church in the Digital Age.” Scholars suggest that what the printing press did to worship in the 15th Century, computers will do to our worship in our time.

For my study, I am creating a “worship lab” during the month of August where we will use Scialla Hall and the presentational technologies in that room to help guide our worship. Those who attend the worship services will be asked to take a brief survey following the service. Your opinions and experiences are vital to my thesis. Keep in mind, I am merely

curious! I have no agenda other than to investigate and experiment with the use of video media arts in worship. Brookside Community Church is not considering outfitting the sanctuary with screens and monitors, nor is that my intended desire. My research is to clarify the meaning of “progressive” in relationship to technology, and then we will see where that may lead us.

Pastor Joel

Dinner at Forte’s Brings in \$300 for ASP

On Monday, April 22, approximately 65 visitors from BCC enjoyed dinner at Forte’s Restaurant in Randolph. The restaurant agreed to donate 15% from each dining bill toward our youth ASP trip to West Virginia in July.

Forte’s features a traditional Italian cuisine with a formal dining room and a pizza/carry out side. At one time, the dining room held over 40 BCC members and friends. It was definitely a festive event.

Marc and Pat Behnke did an excellent job of organizing the night, and the rest of us did a good job of (eating!) and supporting our youth.

A total of \$225 was earned from the proceeds of all the dining receipts, and the owners of Forte’s graciously donated an additional \$75 to bring our grand total to \$300. Thanks again, to Forte’s and all who attended.

From the Growth Committee



Marc Behnke instructing youth how to use power tools as they prepare to head to WV.

Several events are planned for the upcoming months. On Friday, May 3, from 7-10:30 pm, the Growth Committee is hosting a “Spring Soiree” at the Brookside Community Club (located across from the church.) The primary purpose is for our congregation to get to know each other and have the opportunity to mix and mingle. Guests are asked to BYOB and bring a favorite hors d’oeuvre - dessert and coffee will be served by the Growth Committee.

On Friday, June 14, BCC will enjoy an evening out to at a Somerset Patriots baseball game in Bridgewater. Last year, 40 BCC baseball fans had an enjoyable summer evening of baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and funnel cakes! Contact Kim LaBold to reserve your tickets.

Plans are also underway to schedule another “Dinner with Friends” during the summer months. We are currently looking for volunteer hosts who are willing to welcome anywhere from 6-12 guests to dine at their home. These hosts will be responsible for the main course, while the guests will contribute appetizers, salads, desserts, etc. If you would like to serve as a host, please contact Linda Steenbock.

Christian Education Committee

“In honor of Earth Day, BCC middle school youth adopted the intersection around the post office to clean up roadside trash.”

Approximately 45 people attended “Dine Around the World” on March 8. Tipper “The Church Dog” came to visit us earlier. I think she smelled the great food that was cooking. It was a fun and informative evening devoted to raising awareness of global hunger. The High School Youth Group raised \$170 for “One Great Hour of Sharing.” Thank you to Catharina Litjens for planning and preparing the evening’s menu and to the high school students (under the direction of Sandra Altizio) who set-up, served, cleaned-up and lead a presentation and discussion.

The High School Youth Group also began painting the walls of Casterline Café in March, while the Middle School youth recently completed the finishing touches. In honor of Earth Day, the Middle Schoolers “adopted” the intersection area around the church and post office and worked during a recent youth group gathering to clean up roadside trash. This will be an ongoing project teaching the importance of caring for the world God created for us.

On April 14, 8 youth and adults attended a CPR class which was sponsored by the Mendham Township First Aid Squad. In Sunday School, our youth discussed the season of Lent and learned what this season holds in our daily walk with Christ. On Passion Sunday, the children walked through the events of Holy Week at stations set up in The Gathering Place. Our new Sunday School session began in April, and focuses on “Spreading God’s Love” highlighting the important season after Easter leading to Pentecost.

The High School youth will be hosting a screening of “Life of Pi” on Friday, May 10 at 7pm in Scialla Hall. Attendees are asked to bring a pie to share.

In Sunday School, we continue to focus on the weeks leading up to Pentecost. Themes for upcoming weeks include: “Glory to God”, “Believing Jesus’ Promise”, and “Freedom in the Spirit”.

Looking ahead . . . Children’s Sunday will be held on June 16. In September we will be using two exciting new curriculums, “Joyful Path” and “Feasting on the Word”. These two programs will combine a lectionary based program with a progressive Christian curriculum.

Central Atlantic Conference Hosted by NJ Association

“Dreaming Dreams and Seeing Visions” is the theme for the 49th Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference to be held on June 7, 8, and 9.

The New Jersey Association is responsible for organizing this event and Joel is helping plan the worship services. For the past several months, Joel has been regularly attending meetings in preparation for this event which will take place at the University

of Delaware. Roughly 300 members of the UCC from NJ, DE, MD, and VA will gather at this three day event.

One part of the conference will involve visioning communities in a new way as a result of the rebuilding effort due to Super Storm Sandy. Edna Ierley-Byrne will be representing our congregation along with Pastor Joel. Bob Hennelly will be one of the Guest Speakers.



Pastor Joel greet new members Paul Breda, Rebecca Burgee, and David Zimmerman

Worship Events in May and June

May 19 will be a special day as Dr. Deborah Simpkin King and our adult choir will lead worship with a Special Music Sunday.

With the busy lives that our youth lead, June always proves to be a busy month. Confirmation Sunday will be held on June 2 and Children's Sunday will take place on June 16.

June 2 will be the day that Gwen Rosenblatt will lead a youth concert to raise money for Kopila Valley. Over the years, Gwen and our youth have raised thousands of dollars for Maggie Doyne's Children's Home and School in Nepal.

Silent Auction is Focus of Mission Committee

Debbie Replogle has agreed to once again work her magic to organize a silent auction on May 19. The proceeds will help BCC raise money for youth events and trips. Contact Debbie if you have a service or item that you wish to donate. So, please attend worship on the 19th and stay for brunch as you bid on the items.

The Mission Committee is collecting "dress up" clothes and costumes for children ages 2-5 (no hats or wigs, please) for the children at Dover Day Care to use during their creative play time. Please drop off items in the collection box in Scialla Hall.

BCC will be serving lunch at the Community Soup Kitchen on May 18. We are in need of 10 volunteers to serve the meal. Contact Mission Chair, Catharina Litjens if you are able to help out this month.

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New Members Join on Sunday, April 14

Rebecca (Becky) Burgee, Paul Breda, David Zimmerman, and Jack Miller were officially welcomed as new members of Brookside Community Church on Sunday, April 14.

Becky and Jack joined as Associate Members as Becky is very involved in her home church in Vermont where she lives from April to October. Jack is also active in his home congregation near Gettysburg, PA.

Paul lives in Wharton and comes to us as an active Appalachia Service Project veteran. He is helping in leading our youth to WV this July.

Jack is the chair of our Music Committee and has found real joy in the abundance of meetings he attends.

David is a city planner in Morristown and is serving on our Board of Trustees.

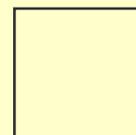
June McKinnell June 1, 1925 - April 15, 2013

June was a lifelong member of BCC and served as a deacon, trustee and member of the choir and an organist. She taught Sunday school, made many of the Chrismon ornaments which adorn our Christmas tree and was president of the Women's Fellowship.

A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, May 18 at 10 am.

We're on the Web!
Brooksidechurch.org

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