

# Brookside Community Church

July 2013

Rev. Joel Biggers, Pastor  
Nancy Vigilante, Editor



## Coming This Fall-Adult Education

The United Church Christ prides itself on being the “Church of Firsts.” We were the first to ordain African Americans, women, and openly gay men and lesbian women. This fact drew me to the UCC from my origins as a United Methodist. Leaving the denomination of my birth was no small or easy task, but it proved to be the healthiest one for me. I needed to find a home where my spiritual seeking would be honored....not controlled, dismissed, or contained.

In that same spirit, I believe God has called some of us to lead the way out of the darkness of human creeds, many of which were created in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries and codified by “the church” over the following 17 centuries. The resulting dogmas and biblical literalism that resulted prevented many people from deepening their faith, and continues to keep many others from even considering attending a church. Many in our modern era have determined the church to be irrelevant due to the scientific understanding we now

enjoy in our world.

This is why I am excited to offer an adult education series titled, “Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith.” From the makers of Living the Questions, this class brings cutting edge scientists and theologians into conversation. I believe faith and science go hand in hand. Darwin’s theories do not threaten my faith or belief in any way. I truly believe that God is working within some people, some congregations, to bridge the science/religion gap created by dated thinking from hundreds of years ago. Organized Christianity created a divide between religion and science hundreds of year ago, our church can help bring them together.

This series will be held the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM in Scialla Hall. First class-Sept. 25.

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Adult Education
- ◆ Flute Salute 7/14
- ◆ Rally Sunday, September 8

## 15 From BCC Headed To WV for Mission Trip

On Saturday, July 13, 15 youth and adults from our congregation head to Mingo County, WV, to help refurbish homes in that area. The team will break into two groups and each group will stay the entire week at their work site doing whatever needs done.

The team returns on Sunday, July 21, and they will lead worship upon their arrival. The growth committee is preparing a welcome

home luncheon for the road weary workers. Those headed on the trip are: Pat, Marc, and Megan Behnke, Paul Breda, Mark Brumbaugh, Caty Eskeland, Meg Byrne, Chris Bernt, Danny Bernt, Becca McLean, Scott Buchanan, Travis Maki, Elise and Brent Michael, and Pastor Joel Biggers. Please keep them in your prayers!



*BCC Volunteers handing out water for Patriots Run, June 22, 2013*

*Schaberg Strings play on Sunday, July 7, and a flute quartet on July 14. See you in worship!*

## From the Growth Committee

A good time was had by all at the several events planned by the Growth Committee. On Friday, June 14, about 20 of braved the rain and storm, and enjoyed an evening with the Somerset Patriots baseball team in Bridgewater, NJ. The highlight of the evening was seeing Judy and Herb Pennoyer's name flashed on the jumbo-tron to honor

their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. The fireworks at the end of the night were a booming success as well

On Saturday, June 29, Lorna and Dave Martin, and Kris and Ken West, hosted simultaneous meals in their homes for our ongoing series of "Dinner With Friends."

## Sunday School and Youth Groups Information

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 8. This is the day Sunday school will kick off. Christian Education Director, Sandra Altizio, will be leading our education efforts again this year. In the fall, our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will combine to learn about communion. Lorna Martin will teach the three week class on the following Sundays: September 15, 22, and 29. This class will meet during the regular Sunday school time. Their education will culminate with celebrating the Eucharist on Sunday, October 6. Our Middle School Youth, grades 5-8, will meet twice a month, the first Sunday of the month following worship, and then again the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, from 3:30-5:00. Our Senior High Youths will meet once a month on the second Sunday of each month following worship.

## Confirmation News for 2013-14

Parent Orientation for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00PM in Scialla Hall. All parents who plan to register their son/daughter should attend.

This year Pastor Joel is planning on taking our confirmands to the Hindu Temple in Bridgewater, the Orthodox Church, and Rabbinical College in Morristown, to name but a few places. The class will convene on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15PM, with parents bringing the meal on a rotating basis. See the web calendar for specific dates. All eighth graders, regardless of their or their parents' church involvement, are welcome! Come and learn about our wonderful church and denomination!

## BCC On The Web

Pastor Joel, Hope Preston, and the rest of the staff are doing their best to keep our web page up to date. By going to our [www.brooksidechurch.org](http://www.brooksidechurch.org) and clicking on the calendar section, you will be able to find many of our upcoming events. The schedule for the 2013-2014

Confirmation Class is already posted and can be found in the gray highlighted area.

As we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we hope to expand our electronic capabilities including moving toward electronic giving.

## Association, Conference, and General Synod News

The University of Delaware was the location again for the Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference. The NJ Association served as the host of the event, meaning we planned the three day gathering and organized worship. The highlight of the gathering was hearing from Rev. Dr. Ben Chavis, leader of the Wilmington Ten. He, along with nine others, were wrongfully incarcerated in North Carolina in 1971 for allegedly bombing a liquor store. The real reason for their arrest was discrimination. In December of 2012, NC Gov. finally exonerated them of all charges and issued a full pardon.

From Los Angeles, the General Synod of the UCC held at the end of June, voted to begin divesting from the fossil fuel industry. The UCC is again the first denomination to step forward in a bold statement.

## Music News

On Wednesday, June 26, Music Committee Chair, Jack Miller, met with Pastor Joel, Deborah Simpkin King, Gwen Rosenblatt, Nancy Vigilante, and Sandra Altizio to begin preparing for the fall. Pastor Joel emphasized the need for integration between Christian Education, Music, and worship.

It is our plan to continue to include our children in Sunday services to develop their understanding of worship. What is preached from the pulpit needs to be affirmed in Sunday school. There is a renewed sense of hope within the staff that 2013-14 will bring a new era of cooperation in our outstanding staff!



*Our choir in red at Pentecost. It was a day of great celebration!*

## Coming Attractions

Our music team has done a good job of working to provide special music during the summer. Eric and Karen Scharberg used our facilities to host their annual string camp. We enjoyed when they played on July 7 in worship. On July 14, Gwen, Jessica, and Jennifer Rosenblatt along with

Jan Schraeder will be performing as a flute ensemble on July 14.

New choir member Joel Robertson sang a spectacular rendition of *The Lord's Prayer* on June 30. Joel is also performing in *Gentle Prefer Blondes* at the Merry Go Round Playhouse in Albany, NY, July 24-Aug. 14.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

We need coffee hour hosts! It is fun and helps us extend our time of togetherness on Sunday. Every Sunday, we need somebody to prepare the coffee for our post worship gathering time. During the summer, the host also makes lemonade or ice tea, both of which are provided. Nancy Vigilante works hard trying to find volunteers and they seem to be dwindling. Some of our hosts also provide a tasty treat to go along with drinks. If you are looking for a place to serve, here is your chance. Please call Nancy at 973-543-7229 so we can continue this tradition of hospitality!

## Patriots Run and BCC

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We're on the Web!  
[www.brooksidechurch.org](http://www.brooksidechurch.org)

CE Director Sandra Altizio spearheaded a team of ten volunteers to staff a water aid station for the 5k/8k running event held on June 22. The race was put on the Mendham Township recreation department, began in front the church. It headed east, turning right on to Tingley Rd. The runners ran to highway

524 where they turned around and back tracked to Washington Valley Road, the location of our water aid station.

At the station runners were greeted with water, cheers, balloons, and sign stating "May you run and not be weary," quoting the scriptures from Isaiah 40:31. Good job Sandra and team!

## Betsy Hendrick Now Serving as Financial Secretary

Every week the checks and money we receive through our offerings goes through quite a process. Two "tellers" count and record the money, and the next day our Financial Secretary deposits the funds. Our Assistant Treasurer then handles the outflow-writing checks and paying bills. The Treasurer oversees the process to make sure everything runs smoothly. All these people volunteer their time. We

owe them a big thank you. For the past several years Beth Ruhle has served as Financial Secretary. She is stepping down and Betsy Hendrick is taking on this role. Linda Steenbock has been the Assistant Treasurer for several years, and Jon McAlenay is the Treasurer. Be sure to thank them from time to time. The work is tedious and the rewards are fleeting.

Saturday, July 20, is our time to serve lunch at the Morristown Soup Kitchen. Contact Catharina Litjens at [catharinalitjens@yahoo.com](mailto:catharinalitjens@yahoo.com), or by calling 201-618-3994. We need 10 volunteers.

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