

Verse of the Month: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths.” ~ Proverbs 3:5-6*



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Christian Education –



Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. School-year programs will be finishing up before much longer, and we will be looking forward to our summer activities. Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements!

Christian Education Committee Members: we are planning a CE meeting for Thursday May 17th at 6:30.

Yours in Christ,
Scott Sabo
Christian Education Chair

Sunday School and Related News for May

This past year's Easter production directed by Dawn Duran and Tina Harvey was phenomenal. The new sound system dedicated to Tom Sooy made its debut and was magnificent! Bob Gillis did phenomenal work with the technology. The images and sound effects that went along with the play turned this production into a work of art. The cast and all who supported this effort can feel truly proud of the profound effect this production had on all who experienced it. It was an incredible way to honor God. We also held our third Family Worship Sunday on April 22nd.

Up Coming Events

- We will be preparing for Mother's Day with our mission project on May 6th.
- We will make Mother's Day projects on Sunday, May 13th that every mother will love.
- We are hoping that Camp Haluwasa representatives will be with us on Sunday, May 20th, to tell us about the camp. We are always pleased to visit with Jake the Snake. The video that we will see shows all the fun activities available for the kids. Parents will be able to speak to the director or the camp for specific details. We offer camperships for \$100 per person for those who attend the Sunday School.
- We will have Youth Recognition Sunday on May 27th. We'll recognize outstanding attendance and individuals who have made significant contributions to the Sunday School and Youth Programs.
- During the month of May, we will have 40 Minute Club sign ups for parent and other adult volunteers willing to lead a class 1-2 Sundays during the summer. Lessons and crafts are provided. Once again we will have two age groups: grades K-3 and 4-7. Last summer we averaged about 8 kids per group per week.
- Stay tuned for the upcoming June events. They will include Teacher Recognition Sunday, Field Day, Canoeing, Graduate Sunday, a Father's Day project that Dad is going to love, and whatever else God has planned for us.

See you on Sunday,
Priscilla

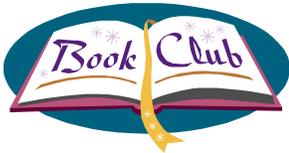
Senior Youth News

We would like to thank everyone for your generous tips at the brunches. The group sets the tables before Sunday School, serves, buses and brakes down the tables. Within 15 minutes of the next service there is no hint there was a brunch!

We have about 15 teens every Monday. They have been practicing with Harold and will be singing on Mother's Day.

We have plans to do a bigger vegetable bed this year. We will be growing tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. Everything we grow is taken to the local Food Bank.

Thank you,
Karen



News from the Christian Readers Book Club

Our next book is **The Seventeen Second Miracle** by Jason F. Wright. It is a book about small acts of kindness and their power to change lives.

Seventeen seconds can change a life forever. This is what Rex Connor learned on a gorgeous summer afternoon in 1970 when, as a lifeguard, he diverted his gaze for 17 seconds and tragedy occurred. Forty years later the waves of that day still ripple through the lives of countless people, including his son, Cole.

This is the story of Cole's life and the lives he touches as he passes on the lessons of his father.

This book will be discussed in the Cobb Lounge on Wed. May 9 at 6:30pm. New members are always welcome.

Women's Circles



This month brings us to the half-way point in our study of the Beatitudes. The fifth Beatitude is unique. While the poor in spirit receive the kingdom of heaven and the meek inherit the earth, those who show mercy receive exactly what they just showed - mercy. The reward of mercy is...mercy. Showing mercy to others involves taking into account the needs of people around you. Mercy is compassion for people in need. Mercy requires a high standard. God's mercy extends to all people,

and so must our mercy.

The Sarah Circle will meet in Cobb Lounge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 2nd. The **Ruth Circle** will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 4th, at the home of Betsy Cunius. The **Martha Circle** will meet at the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 10th. All women of the church are encouraged to join us for study and fellowship at the circle that best meets your time schedule. You will be warmly welcomed.



Men's Fellowship to Meet May 5 at 8:30am

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:30 on May 5. We will discuss our barbecue on Memorial Day weekend and share devotions. Breakfast will be French toast. Only \$3.00. Bring a friend. We need new members!

New Members to be Received in May

Pastors Cobb and Reedell are currently teaching new members' classes on Sunday afternoons at 2:30. (Join us!) Session will receive new members on May 8, and they will be received by the congregation later in the month. Please welcome them and add their names to your church directory.



Pastor Cobb Away on Study Leave May 14-18

Pastor Cobb will be attending the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta, Georgia from May 14-18. This is part of his study leave provided for in his terms of call.

This will not entail his being away over a Sunday. Pastoral emergencies should be referred to our parish associate, Rev. Gerry Reedell.

Church to Honor Mothers on May 13

May 13 is Mothers' Day, and as always we have some special plans to honor our mothers.

This year we will be giving out plants prepared by the children of our Sunday School under Priscilla.

Thank you, moms, for all you do. We love you!



Thanks for a Job Well Done!

The Property Committee thanks for a very successful mission work day: Kris, Melvin, Greg, Vic & Rita, JannaBeth, John Harvey, Al Ciccara, Tina Brown, Bill & Ginny, Harold & Cheryl, Jim Maurer, Elaine, Jan J., Dave Stebbins, Lynn & Russ, Karen Muldoon, Deb, Jeremy & Elisa Wong, Priscilla, Nick Hawkes, Woody, Drew, Denise, and last but not least, Dave Cobb. You did a wonderful job!

News from the Deacons

The Deacons last met on March 31 to plan our Bereavement Luncheon and put together Easter Goodie bags for various members of our church. A great big thank you to everyone who helped deliver these bags.

The Deacons also helped with the funeral luncheon for Bill Downer on April 10. Again, a loving thank you to past and present Deacons and friends who

always are ready to help when called upon. You know we can't do our work without your valuable help and support. Thank You!

When writing this, the Bereavement (Friendship) Luncheon is about a week away. The Deacons sent out over twenty-seven invitations for the April 29 Luncheon. This special Luncheon is held every 2 years to honor a loved one who has passed on. A lot

of preparation goes on behind the scenes for this bi-annual event. A sincere thank you to everyone who participated and who helped make this event possible.

The next Deacons meeting will be on Tuesday May 8 at 6pm, and we will stay to report to the Session at 7pm.

In Christian service and love,
 Naida Burgess, Moderator
 Kris Jenoriki, Vice Moderator

Stewardship Committee Report



The following statistical summary for March is self explanatory. We continue to grow our deficit, mainly because two of our three rental properties are operating at a loss. We should begin showing a profit from the house recently rented. We are hopeful that the child care center will be rented within a month. When all properties are fully rented our finances supporting the operating budget should become positive. Our other two sources of income – collections and investment – are operating in a satisfactory manner.

Statistical Report for March

Budget for 2012	\$220,771.00
Budgetary needs through March 25, 2012	\$ 55,192.80
Our giving through 3//25/12	\$ 42,891.08
Investment Income	\$ 5,402.80
Rental Income (net)	\$ (1,744.55)
Total	\$ 46,549.33
 Amount <u>under</u> budget	 \$ 8,643.47

Average weekly giving by month

	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
January	\$3257.33	\$3665.34
February	\$3384.29	\$3126.90
March	\$3326.92	\$3391.40

Gerald W. Hoenes
 Stewardship Committee Chairperson

FUNdraising Committee



On April 21st, we held our first Zumba FUNdraiser. There were 13 in attendance plus the instructor. Much

FUN was had by all who were there and the instructor said that she would definitely come back.

We realized a profit of \$50 from Zumba, which has been deposited into our general fund.

Our next FUNdraiser is our 1st Annual Golf Tournament on May 20th. The event will take place at the Mays Landing Golf Club. Registration for the golfers will begin at 12noon with tee-off at 1PM. The cost per golfer is \$100. The registration form is available on our website, www.absecon_presby.org, or contact Karen Muldoon or Dawn Duran. If you do not golf, you may join us for the dinner and auction for \$30, starting at approximately at 5PM. We are also

looking for volunteers to help that day. There will be sign-up sheets each Sunday between services or contact Karen Muldoon or Dawn Duran to sign up or for more information. There will be a wide variety of prizes given out as door prizes, auction items, or golf prizes. These prizes include but are not limited to gift certificates to area restaurants, a week vacation in Myrtle Beach, gym memberships, a stay at the Borgata, and a facial at a local spa, just to name a few. Please come out and support us!

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson

Dinner/Auction May 20th Following Golf Tournament

Please join us for a BBQ dinner and auction after the Golf Tournament May 20th @ Mays Landing CC. The cost is \$30.00/person. Just take a look at some of the auction items and door prizes.....

- a night stay at **Borgata** with \$150.00 to spend on dinner....total package valued @ \$450.00
- a facial or massage at **Cloud 9** in Galloway.....valued @ \$70.00
- 6 month membership to **Oceanside** in EHT.....valued @ \$198.00
- a house in Myrtle Beach for a week.....valued @ \$1000.00
- wine tasting for 2 at **Passion Vines** in Somers Point.....valued @ 40.00
- Gift cards to **China Sea, Gourmet, Touch of Italy**.....values noted on cards
- surfing lesson for 2 from **AC Surf Club**.....valued @ \$120.00
- so much more: baskets, golf membership, gym memberships, candies, a BBQ cooler and on and on

There will be a complete list of all items closer to the event date. We are still receiving donations! Checks and cash will be accepted.

Did I mention our MC will be **Kirk Conover**? Please come out and join us for what is going to be a great night!

Golf registration forms are in the office. There will be a sign up table between services also.

See you there!
Karen Muldoon



April Thank Yous

April turned out to be a busy month for our church, so we thank those who served above and beyond the call of duty:

1. The deacons and those who served the luncheon after the funeral services for Bill Downer on April 10.
2. The Men's Fellowship who put on a moving Good Friday service and served a great luncheon following.

3. All who came out and worked hard on work day, April 14. The windows got washed and the place looks great. Many special jobs were accomplished. Thanks, Kris, for coordinating.
4. Elaine, Kris, and Greg for working the flower beds, spreading mulch and planting. Good work.
5. Jan Jorgensen who set up the Lenten setting for our church in March and put it all back the way it was in April.
6. The Evergreens for giving Paul Hamer a great birthday party April 18.
7. The bell choir for playing a difficult selection on Palm Sunday. It sounded great! Enjoy the summer off.
8. Bob & Chris Gillis for a lot of work on wiring the Tom Sooy sound system and for programming PowerPoint into our services. We finally joined the 21st century.
9. Leo, Melvin, Brian & Vicky Hawkes, Cheryl Hawkes, Linda Gillis, Kris Jenoriki, Ethel Washington, and John Harvey for all the specialty food at our April 15th brunch. It was great!

Fellowship Committee News



The May 5 Congregational Concert/Dinner featuring the Matthews Brothers is fast approaching. Tickets are going quickly so make sure to contact Joan Hoenes if you wish to attend this event. A delicious dinner will be prepared by Nancy Sooy for both seatings at 5 & 6 p.m.

Our Annual Strawberry Festival, which is always a crowd pleaser and welcomes in the summer season, is being planned. More information will be provided when details are finalized.

Just a reminder, our next meeting of the Fellowship Committee is May 15 at 7:00pm.

Sincerely,
Tina Brown



Happy Friday May 11th 6pm.

Come join us for our 2nd Happy Friday on May 11 at 6:00 p.m. We will be playing Bingo. Small prizes will be given to our Bingo winners! All are welcome to bring a dish for our potluck dinner.

Happy Fridays are for everyone to enjoy so come out for a happy time. See you on Happy Friday!

Vic Abelson

May 5th - Congregational Event
 Dinner at 5:00 or 6:00 (Your Choice)
 Matthews Brothers Concert at 7:00

Please pick up your tickets from Joanie - a very few seats remain due to unexpected cancellations - sorry, no refunds

Thank you for your warm-hearted support of these inspiring Christian Programs.

Please call Joanie even on concert day if you can not attend ---- 641-1839.



Men's Fellowship Plans Memorial Sunday Picnic in Memory of Bill Downer



The Men's Fellowship is planning the first barbeque of the season behind the manse on Sunday, May 27, from 12:30-4:00. They will serve hot dogs, hamburgers, barbequed ribs, shrimp, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, fruit, and anything else they can think of. Cost is only

\$5.00. (Sorry, but we lost money on the last two events, so we must charge for this one.)

We will eat, toss some horseshoes, play badminton, and celebrate life. And we will remember the life of our fallen leader, Bill Downer, who died April 4. He was a great guy, and we still miss him.



EVERGREENS 2012 SPRING LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD, 12 NOON
SMITHVILLE INN, SMITHVILLE, NJ

Menu Choices -- Choose one

Maryland Crab Cake	\$24.00
Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$23.00
Grilled Steak	\$26.00

Name: _____

Menu Choice: _____

Number of People: _____ Paid: _____

Reservation Deadline: May 17th

Call: Joanna Howell (383-9423) OR Marjorie McGuigan (965-3535)

Lunch Bunch to Travel to Olive Garden

Lunch Bunch will travel to the Olive Garden on May 9. We will meet at the church at 11:30 or meet at the restaurant by the Hamilton Mall at noon.

Congratulations, Carolyn Thomas!

Carolyn Thomas was selected by Peabody Conservatory of Music of John Hopkins University to attend the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore for this Fall Semester of college. She will go back for both semesters in 2013 and will graduate with a dual degree from both colleges. Carolyn is the daughter of Jeff and Carmela Thomas and the Granddaughter of Carol Thomas. CONGRATULATIONS. We are so proud of you.



Dear Deacons,

You are doing such a great job. I know everyone who receives, truly appreciates the thought and care you provide.

I am going to try to make it to church now. It is so good seeing everyone.

Thank you so much for the Easter “basket”. (most enjoyable)

Betsy Cunius

* * * * *

Here I am, on April 22nd, Earth Day, remembering the wonderful birthday party at Evergreens last Wednesday and looking at the huge stack of cards I received. I had been looking forward to getting to Church today to hear Lisa's message and seeing everyone, but I guess I worked a little too hard at getting my garden ready for the rain that we have been promised. I just could not make it. Please accept my sincere THANK YOU to everyone who sent me greeting cards, who came out to Evergreens, especially Chair Lady Joanna Howell for planning such a nice party with games and prizes, and her aides, Carol Thomas and Ruth Champion. God has richly blessed me. May God bless all of you, too.

Paul Hamer

* * * * *

A big thank you to all the Deacons for the beautiful card, the homemade food and the bag of Easter goodies – what a nice surprise.

To our Church family – Thank you for all your cards and prayers.

Love and God bless you all,
Dee and Jack Heil

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To our wonderful Pastor Cobb, Parish Associate Gerry Reedell, Deacons, and our Church Family and Friends.

Thank you once again for your prayers, cards, calls, food, and goodies, which were very much appreciated. The visits from our pastors were heartfelt. Without all of this we would have been lost.

The good news is slowly but surely Bob is working hard to get better, gaining strength, hope, for his recovery. He is looking forward to coming back to church in a while.

God listened to your prayers as He always does, and we are very grateful. Thank you again and God bless you all.

Love,
Irene Hunter

* * * * *

A Special Thank You for your prayers, phone calls and visits during my recent illness.

The prayer shawl is very comforting, and I will treasure it always.

Richard and I also appreciated the meals and soups from our church members.

God Bless You Always,
Doris Wood

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Cleaning Up After Easter

Therefore, if anyone be in Christ he is a new creature. The old is passed away. Behold, all has become new. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am writing this the day before we go on vacation. I always try and make my office a little bit more presentable before I go away, but this cleanup is special. My desk is covered with notes of sermons I never preached (how did I skip over doubting Thomas this year) and bulletins of Lenten lunches, Maundy Thursday, our Good Friday breakfast (good job, men) and Easter Sunday. I have some Easter banners I never hung (too late now) and our church Easter decorations never got hung this year, either. Like after Christmas and every other holiday, it's time to clean up and move on, time to reassess what we did and what worked well. The clergy will meet soon to discuss ecumenical Lenten observances and what needs to be tweaked. We did collect over \$900 in offerings, but is that a good amount?

But more importantly what difference did it make? Are we cleaning up and shaping up, or settling back into the same old rut?

The Saturday after Easter we had the biggest work day ever. We not only washed windows and fertilized, but some real change took place. We removed most of the bushes by the Stopfer building and decided to plant a hardy ground cover like porchulaca. The church sign was given a facelift and painted. Windows weren't just washed. We scraped and painted, too. Same for the sign under my office window. We began to vision to rearrange furniture, clean up the game room, rebuild the trash area, etc. Maybe it was just a nice day to work, but something tells me it was more – it was time to clean up our act and be different. We seemed inspired. Easter should have that effect.

Does Easter inspire you to clean up your act, try something different, reach out in new ways, and dare to live out your faith? It should. This is spiritual housekeeping season.

Easter should make life look and feel better. It should inspire us to a new level of joy and optimism. It should lead us into ever growing and changing areas of mission. It should lead us to be better church members, community members, family members and better people.

As I write this, the sign out front still reads "Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed". Now that is motivation! Live it.

Jan and I will be in Florida enjoying a resurrection vacation until April 28. See you when we get back. We will clean up, vision, and rebuild some more.

- Dave

Lay Assistants

6 9:30 Karen Muldoon
11:00
13 9:30
11:00 Tina Brown
20 9:30 Scott Sabo
11:15 Gerry Reedell
27 9:30
11:00 Vic Abelson

Head Ushers

6 9:30 Joyce & Ron Pfeiffer
11:00 Betty Lloyd, Mary Bew
13 9:30 Joe Marshall, Dawn Lewis
11:00
20 9:30 Don & Deb Wong
11:15 Joanna Howell
27 9:30 Joan Nale
11:00 Denise Ott, Shirley Smith

Collection (9:30)

6 Ginny Davenport, Edith Budd
13
20 Jan & Carol Jorgensen
27 Joan Pattky, Don Mills

Deacons for the Month

9:30 Carol Jorgensen
11:00 Mary Bew



Acolyte (9:30)

6
13
20
27

Nursery (9:30)

6 Jennifer Platt
13 Gloria Achamizo
20 Alice Malfi
27 Fran Tanner

Van Drivers

6 John Channell
13 Barbara Hughes
20 John Harvey
27 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

6
13
20 Join us for Brunch!
27

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

6 Set-up – Edith Budd
Cook – John Harvey
Clean-up – Joe Marshall
13 Set-up – Bob Wilkenloh
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Bill & Ginny Davenport
20 **No Breakfast** – Join us for Brunch
27 Set-up – The Little Family
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Olga Davies & Jean Delesantro