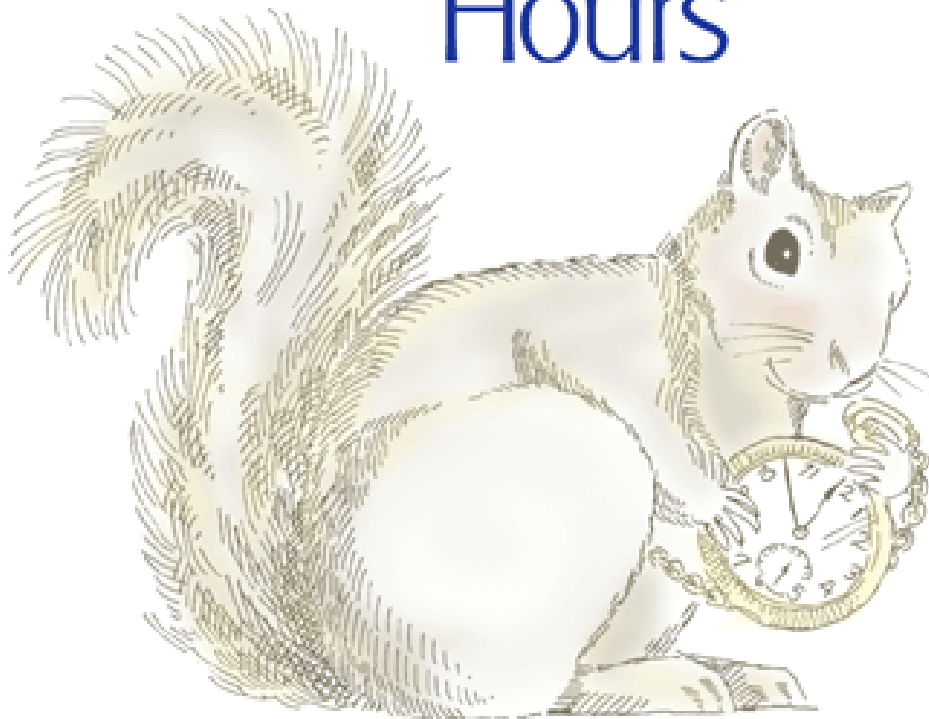


Verse of the Month: *“For what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.” ~ Micah 6:8*

Return to Regular Hours



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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Absecon, New Jersey 08201
Phone: 609-641-3759 Fax: 609-641-5125

Office email: absecon_presby@msn.com—Website: abseconpresby.org



Fall Schedule Begins September 9

We return to double services the Sunday following Labor Day, September 9. That is Rally Day, and after some fanfare the children will leave the service to begin Sunday School classes with their teachers. Sunday breakfast also begins that day at 8:45, and the choir will sing at both services (choir practice begins Thursday, Sept. 6, at 7:00pm). Refreshments return indoors to Madden Hall between services.

Weekend of Sept. 14 will be Big with Downtown Fair

The second weekend of our fall schedule will be unusually busy because the Absecon Downtown Fair is being held early this year on Saturday, Sept. 15. The New Jersey Avenue lot will be used for a church-wide yard sale as in the past (see Tina B.), and we will be serving food most of the morning.

But that weekend is the first brunch on Sunday, so plan on a great time of food and fellowship between services. Brunch will cost \$6.00 this year because we have been losing money on it. Also, don't forget that the second service begins fifteen minutes late

(11:15) on Brunch Sundays which will normally be the third Sunday of the month.

If those two events aren't enough for you we will have our first Happy Friday on September 14 at 6:00pm. Dawn Houseworth and Kathy Moore will be showing us how to save money on your food bill as well. Bring a friend and something to share for our covered dish supper.

Our Fall Programs will begin with a bang!



Christian Education News

Yes, it is that time of year again... it is still warm and sunny and the leaves aren't down yet, but school is starting back up and so are all of our Christian Education programs. The Youth Groups have lots of great activities in the works. Keep checking the announcements for more news about upcoming events.

This is also a good time to acknowledge all of the people who make these programs happen. There are many, many people who help in different ways... from leaders and teachers to parents, aides, and sponsors, Christian Education is a team effort that could not be successful without the contributions (of time, talents and treasure) of so many members of our congregation. Thanks to all of you for your efforts and your support!

Yours in Christ,
Scott Sabo
Christian Education Chair



Sunday School to Kick Off with Rally Day September 9, 2012

Welcome back! Hopefully you are feeling refreshed from some relaxing summer activities. Here at church some good things happened over the summer as well. The 40 Minute Club ran smoothly thanks to the many volunteer teachers and aides and to the families who brought their kids. The memorial plaques dedicated for youth leaders, Tom Sooy and Jan Baker, were mounted by their memorial trees. (Thank you Russ Adkisson, Nancy Sooy, and Carol Kleiner for all your help to get them there.) Some new program opportunities such as an adult Bible Study class, PreK-K music ministry, and two youth choirs will make our Sunday morning worship experiences even better than before.

- ◆ **Rally Day** will take place on **September 9th** at the 9:30 service. Everyone should arrive 15 minutes early to find our groups. We will be focusing on our trust in God's justice and speaking from **Micah 6:8**.

“For what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”

- ◆ Sunday School will run from 9:30-10:30am each Sunday. Families should arrive 15 minutes early on Rally Day and on days when Calls to Worship or Family Worship Sundays are scheduled. Classes are offered for 3 yr olds through adults. A nursery is available for our babies and toddlers.
- ◆ Anna Mae Werner will be leading a **music program for our PreK-K** class each week from approximately 9:30-10:30am. Grades 1-6 will continue to have a closing music and puppetry program in the game room from 10:20-10:30am.
- ◆ Classes for **grades 7-12** will continue to remain in the Worship Service on Communion Sundays to participate in the sacrament and worship experience.
- ◆ A **Bible Study for adults**, led by Anna Mae Werner, will take place every Sunday in the Cobb Lounge from 9:45-10:30am. Many adults have already expressed interest in attending and can enjoy going from this Bible Study to the 11:00am worship service with refreshments in between.
- ◆ With one teacher and two alternating aides per class we have a **wonderful staff** in place for our kids and teens. Our teachers are: Dawn Duran, Karen Little, Tina Harvey, Diane Lee, JoAnn Sabo, Bob Gillis, and Anna Mae Werner. Our Aides are: Jacqueline Bhatti, Kathy Moore, Fran Tanner, Dawn Houseworth, Jason Imlay, Jennifer Platt, Sheila Mazzatta, Julie Seltzer, Tina Brown, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Hudak, Dawn Lewis, Janna Beth Cobb, and Naida Burgess. Linda Gillis has stepped forward to be the Sunday School Assistant, Lee Wolff will lead our Mission Project efforts, and Scott Sabo will present the Jr. Sermons.
- ◆ **Class sizes** are looking good. We have an average of 9 kids for most classes. Our 4th grade class is so large that we divided the group to balance two classes, and our high school class can expect 15 teens on a regular basis. All our teachers are doing a wonderful job working with our kids and teens, keeping them interested and involved.
- ◆ Kids and adults are encouraged to **bring friends** and new families to the church. We take note of this throughout the year and present **Evangelist Awards** in the spring to kids and adults who bring others to the church. Attendance makes a big difference to everyone. We'll be recognizing **Attendance Awards** in the spring with **Bronze** (15+), **Silver** (20+), **Gold** (25+), and **Kryptonite** (30+). This year in addition to that, the **Infinity and Beyond Award** will be presented to anyone with **35+** weeks and will receive an

individualized **Christian t-shirt** that could be worn and admired anywhere anytime but are perfect for Sundays, youth group events, Calls to Worship, Family Worship Sundays, Mission Trips, etc.

- ◆ Our **Sponsors** continue to support our Sunday School classes spiritually and financially. Sponsors donate \$25 to a particular class for small incidental purchases. All interested adults are accepted.
- ◆ Harold Hawkes will direct two youth choirs this year.

The Senior Youth Choir, directed by Harold Hawkes, is for our high school members.

This group will normally practice on the 1st and 2nd Mondays of the month during Youth Group at 6:30pm. Then the group will perform on the 3rd Sunday of each month which coincides with Brunch Sundays.

Because we are not beginning our program until after Labor Day, the first two rehearsals will take place on Mondays September 10th and 17th. The first performance will take place September 23rd which is the first Brunch Sunday of the school year.

The Jr. Choir, also directed by Harold Hawkes, is for kids in Grades 4-8.

This group will practice on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month from 10:40-10:50 in Cobb Lounge. The group will perform on the first Sunday of each month which coincides with Communion Sundays.

To get started, this group will have its first two practices on Sundays September 23rd and 30th and perform for the first time on October 7th.

- ◆ In our Christian Ed Program we offer three **Youth Group** experiences. These groups offer many hands-on opportunities that extend Bible Lessons and develop faith and friendships. More information on each group will be found in your Good News.

Lions and Lambs is a youth group for PreK- 4th graders that meets once a month from 11:00-12:30 on the 1st Sunday of every month (Communion Sundays).

A2J is our youth group for grades 5-8. This group meets every Sunday from 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

The Senior Youth Group is for grades 9-12. This group meets on Mondays from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm.

This year our faith will grow in many ways. Let's trust in God's justice. Let's embrace Micah's wisdom in our own lives so that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

In Christ's love always,
Priscilla

Lions & Lambs



Lions and Lambs will be looking to get off to a great start in September. A lawn games event after service on September 16th should get us off to a great start with fun, fellowship, and a wonderful thought to ponder: "How do we earn points with God?"

As a Co-op, a brief meeting of parents will be essential after services on September 9th, where we'll be giving much consideration to input from every participating family with regards to our calendar of events for the upcoming year, including

our mission for our children and a parental agreement for conduct and participation. I've got lots of ideas, which I Praise the Lord for as they come. Parents, please bring your "Divine Ideas" with you as well.

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father (Our Father), which is in heaven." Amen! – Matthew 5:16

In His Service,
JoAnn Sabo

Senior Youth News

I would like to say THANK YOU, Courtney, Charity, Nick Hawkes, Terri and Mike, for helping to clean up debris in the cemetery after the storm. I would also like to acknowledge Mike McManus, Chris & Nick Hughes, Chris Harvey and Nick Hawkes for going to NY with the mission team. NICE JOB!!!!!!

The group went to the cabin for a weekend of skiing and tubing. Thanks, Kendal and Jack. Now it's time to start our meetings back up. Monday, Sept. 10th, @ 6 pm I hope to see all your faces. It will take me a few weeks to get the dinner schedule written, so Jack, Kendal and I will take the first 3 dinners. No one graduated in 2012, so we will only be adding to our group.

Looking forward to another great year!!!!!!

Karen Muldoon, co-director



Christian Readers Book Club September 19, 6:30pm

It is time for the first meeting of the Christian Readers Book Club. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19, at 6:30pm. Please come and join us.

The book for September is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery, translated by Alison Anderson. An enchanting New York Times and international best seller and award-winner about life, art, literature, philosophy, culture, privilege, and power seen through the eyes of a 54 year old French concierge and a precocious but troubled 12 year old girl.

Monday Bible Study to Resume September 10

Our Monday Bible study will begin at 1:30 on September 10. We will pick up with a new study in 1 Timothy. This pastoral epistle still guides us today, and this is a great time to become part of a group that has met for many years in the lounge. Join us. This is the same day as the first 4F luncheon, so come to lunch and stay for Bible Study!



Men's Fellowship to Meet on September 8 at 8:30am

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will have their first organizational meeting over breakfast on Saturday, September 8.

Our new president, Don Mills, has some exciting possible plans for us. There are some good things to talk about.



Women's Circles

When we return in September after a nice summer break, we will continue our Bible study of the Beatitudes. This month we will look at the 6th Beatitude - "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." What a wonderful promise! But just what is a "pure heart?" The Greek word for pure hints that what is pure was not always pure, but has been purified, cleansed, washed out and hung up to dry. A pure heart is one that has been purged from what it does not need, and if retained, is harmful. The pure in heart are not perfect people. They are the ones who recognize that their own sinfulness separates them from God. They are the ones who accept the forgiveness of

God and whose inner lives are being transformed over time.

The Ruth Circle will meet at the home of Betsy Cunius at 1:00 p.m. Friday, September 7th. The Sarah Circle will be meeting at our new date - Wednesday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m. in Cobb Lounge. The Martha Circle will meet at the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 13th.

In late spring, the Circles sent out the "goodie boxes" to our college students. Over the summer, we received the following thank you notes:

Thanks to the ladies of Absecon Presbyterian Church for the care package. It's always awesome receiving a package like that! My roommates and I will most definitely enjoy its contents! Patrick Maurer, (grandson of Jim Maurer)

Thanks to the Church group that sent me food in the mail! I haven't been able to run to the food store for weeks, so this was a nice surprise to find in my mailbox. School is winding down; two more weeks until graduation. Thanks again! Colin Lehman (grandson of Jim Maurer)

Dear Reverend Gerry, Sorry it took me so long to send this, but I wanted to say thank you for the care package. Since I'll be graduating this semester, I will definitely miss those surprises in the mail. Thank you. Leigh Cunius (granddaughter of Betsy Cunius)

Dear Ladies of the Martha, Ruth & Sarah Circles, Thank you so much for the goodie box! It came right in time for finals! I appreciate all of the boxes throughout my college career. Maybe I'll even get some during grad school! Sincerely Paige Pfeiffer (granddaughter of Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer)

Ladies, Thank you so much for the care package. My friends and I greatly appreciated it! Carolyn Thomas (daughter of Jeff & Carmela Thomas & granddaughter of Carol Thomas)

To the Ladies of the Sarah, Martha, and Ruth Circles, Thank you once again for the wonderful care package. It is always appreciated! The brownies were great! Everything really comes in handy!! From Kelly McGlynn (granddaughter of Loretta Metz)

Dear Ladies of the Circles, I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful care package I received at college during spring semester. It was so very sweet and thoughtful from all of you and I greatly appreciated it. Also thank you for the delicious brownies as well. My suitemates and I enjoyed them very much! Sincerely Kristin Hudak (daughter of Bob & Barbara Hudak and granddaughter of Bob & Pat Hudak)

Dear Ladies of the Absecon Presbyterian Church, Thank you all very much for the lovely care package. It's always a nice surprise to get one in the mail. Thank you for packing snack foods such as granola bars and peanut crackers, as those make perfect busy snacks when I'm running around in between classes or on a boat after a snorkel or dive. I also love the travel sized toothpaste as it comes in handy whenever I have overnight field classes or weekend trips. I also really appreciate the Ramin noodles as it is a staple in all college student diets as well as the chapstick as I was out of mine and now don't have to buy a new one. And last but certainly not least, I love the hot cocoa and appreciate that you all put lots of packets in for me. I truly appreciate all of the time and thought that goes into these care packages. Thanks again Erin Nassif (daughter of David & Naida Burgess)

Dear Absecon Presbyterian Church Women's Circles, Thank you for sending me the care package. I enjoyed it very much. I am now back at home for the summer and am officially done with school, except for a little project for the summer. I hope all is well with you and thanks again for the package. Shauna Crowley (granddaughter of Ilsa Smith)

Dear Women's Circles of Absecon Presbyterian Church, Thank you for sending me the care package. I appreciate you all thinking of me. It has come in handy because I have started a new job/internship where I need to bring my own lunch. So the snacks are excellent to keep me going through the day and gum to freshen up after. Also the brownies are delicious! Joseph Crowley (grandson of Ilsa Smith)

Dear Women's Circles, Thank you for sending me the care package. It is much appreciated to have home-cooked brownies and other snacks to help relieve the stress of papers and finals. I think most other college students will agree with me when I say that I look forward to receiving care packages and they are the best part of my semester. Thank you. Connor Crowley (grandson of Ilsa Smith)

Parents and Grandparents - Please send the addresses of your college students to Gay in the office as soon as possible. We will be sending the "goodie boxes" out in October and don't want to miss anyone.

Sunday Night Study to Study Characters from Philippians

Pastors Cobb and Reedell will begin a new study/small group resource from the epistle to the Philippians on Sunday, September 9, at 6:30pm in Cobb Lounge. This twelve week course will look at this most intimate of Paul's letters, often called the "epistle of joy", and help us to find purpose through the lives of characters referenced in the epistle such as Lydia (the business executive), a slave girl, a hard working jailer, and other behind the scenes characters.

Together we will grow closer to Christ and gain a better understanding of God's purpose in our lives. This will be a growing experience.

There is a DVD section to begin each lesson taught by Matt Chandler. Our pastors will lead the discussion following.

The cost is only \$5.00. We will adjourn before 8:00pm each week. There is no homework. Sign up in the vestibule.

Come, make friends, learn about yourself, and grow spiritually.

CARE BOXES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Our women's circles will be making up care packages for all of our college students. We need profile information for each of our students so we can be sure to include everyone. Please return the following information to the church office through the offering plate or email absecon_presby@msn.com as soon as dorm assignments are received.

Please print clearly

Student Name: _____

College/University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthday: _____

Major: _____

Projected year of Graduation: _____



Worship Committee

Our summer schedule is nearing an end. I would like to thank Gerry Reedell and Borden Gillis for preaching. I also would like to thank Scott Sabo who volunteered to be Lay Assistant every Sunday Pastor Cobb was away. Maybe *volunteered* isn't the right word...You did a **great** job!! I would like to say "nice job" to Harold Hawkes. We've enjoyed some truly wonderful music: soloist Vic Werner, a duet with Vic and Chris Gillis, and a quartet with Vic, Priscilla, Dave and Jan. We have also enjoyed hearing from the Men's Club. Our musical guests from outside our church were James Harris a violinist, Richard Garrick played the trumpet, the Holland family, and Jonathan & Bob from God Is Faithful Church. Thank you all for your talents and services.

We will be making a small change in the service schedule beginning September 9th when we resume our 2 services. The anthem will come before the Children's sermon to accommodate the Sunday School teachers who are also in the choir.

Have a Blessed month,
Karen Muldoon

***Harold Hawkes is looking for all who love to sing. Come and join the choir! Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 6, at 7:00pm.*

Communion "Bread"

You may have noticed that during communion we are now using *unleavened bread* wafers. Jesus' last meal with his disciples was during Passover. Both Matthew and Mark refer to *Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread*: "On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?'" (Matthew 26:17)

The breaking of bread is the central rite or sacrament of the Christian church. Every time we take communion, we hear almost the same the words that are written in three Gospels, Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24 and Luke 22:17-20. Mark 14:22-24: "While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

When we come to the Lord's Table to celebrate communion we need to remember that this is a serious occasion and should highlight our unity as a follower of Christ. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he pleaded with them "by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." (1 Corinthians 1:10) Paul also wrote to the Ephesians "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:31-32)

Therefore, the unleavened bread wafers that we eat and the grape juice that we drink are symbols of our Lord's precious body sacrificed for us. This "meal" that we eat is in memory of his death. Think about it ... do we really need to argue over these symbols?

In loving kindness,
Naida Burgess



Schoharie New York Mission Trip 2012

The week of July 15-20 2012 saw our Mission Team depart for the New York area that was devastated by Hurricane Irene in August 2011. After church and a quick lunch on Sunday, Drew Malfi & John Harvey loaded their truck with the overflow of duffle bags & suitcases that wouldn't fit in the van. The rest of the caravan, van driven by Bill Miller with Tina Brown, Chris Harvey, Chris Hughes, Nick Hawkes, Mike McManus, and Dave Cobb, followed by Bob Hudak with son Bobby, followed by Bob Hudak with son Bobby, followed by newcomers Keith Sterling, son Doug, Mike Smith (Alice's family members), and Nick Hughes. Jim Maurer & Barbara Help met us at Cobleskill College where we stayed for the week. Alice Smith & Loretta Metz went up on Saturday to check out the accommodations and get things set up. Our sleeping arrangements were nice as we were in a college dorm with air conditioning. The cooking situation was a bit of a challenge but it worked out.

Our group was fortunate to be placed in houses in very close proximity to each other. It was very hot, dirty & smelly work, mucking out cellars and filling a very large dumpster with debris that was still left behind. The guys thought Barbara was awesome and Tina learned a lot from helping Bill. The whole group did a wonderful job, but I have to give credit to the 7 teens. They worked so hard and did the church proud. It was nice that the team got to actually meet some of the owners of the homes they worked in. One older couple even invited them to come and swim in their pool after a couple of long hot days. She even made them cookies and popcorn.

We had lunch every day at The Fishes and Loaves Cafe, there was always at least one hot entree,

salads, cold sandwiches, cold beverages and desserts. It was run by a very efficient lady named Emily. She explained that since day 2 of the storm they have not had to pay one penny for any food or supplies. Townspeople from all over the region, restaurants, hotels, farmers, supply everything. It is Unbelievable how God works.

The devotions in the evenings were very impressive. Listening to the answers that were given to questions Dave asked, especially those given by the youth, you could tell they were heart felt.

A noteworthy item for you to know is that every dollar donated to the Schoharie Recovery Assoc. is being met dollar for dollar by a benefactor who will continue this wonderful act of love until the end of August 2012. Alice found this out when she was discussing the donations of the Mission Team.

We could not do these Missions without you, the congregation. Even though you may not be where the team is physically, your generous monetary & prayer support is right beside us every day and is so much appreciated. Without you we could not do what we do. Thank you so much!

I think the most rewarding part of this trip was knowing that the house the team did the most work on, was that the owner Tim and his three children were going to be moving back into their home the Sunday after we left.

It's always nice to come back home feeling that we did something that the Lord wanted us to do and can all say "Here I am Lord, is it I Lord."



CROP Walk to be Held October 14

Our annual walk for hunger will meet at 1:00pm in Heritage Park on Sunday, October 14. We will follow a new route through Absecon.

Sponsor envelopes will be given out in September. Please sponsor our walkers, and if you can walk see the pastor or call the office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have just gotten through a very hot summer and are ready to fire up our wonderful ministry of sharing God's promise of hope and love, (although I must tell you) the summer did not stop the ministry because of requests received. We will meet Saturday, Sept 8th, at 9:30 am in the chapel. All ladies are welcome to join us, even if you cannot crochet or knit. We will be having sessions to teach you. Details need to still be worked out and we will let you know when they have been finalized. We can also teach you to make No-Sew Blankets and can always use prayers warriors.

We have repeatedly put request forms in the pew racks, where many of them go (??) they just disappear. If you have a request and cannot find one please fill out a piece of paper with your name and phone number with the name of the recipient, adult, child (age), male or female, Prayer need. Please put it in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office. Requests will be honored at our monthly meetings or in a reasonable time frame.

Thank you for your support and see you there.

In Christian Love,
Loretta Metz

News from the Deacons

As Summer winds down we start thinking of cooler weather and Fall activities. Deacons will need your help again with our Harvest Home donations to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Starting in late October, we will be collecting non-perishable food and personal items. Look for our table (and a large box for gently used jackets and coats) in the vestibule for your donations.

A sincere thank you to all who continue to help when called upon to set up, bring baked goods, serve, and clean up for memorial services and funerals. Thank You!

The next Deacons meeting will be on October 27 at 10 am in Cobb Lounge.

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

News from Lisa

Croatian priest, a Bosnian young man, a Brit, a Canadian and an American all walk into a 500 year old building for a meeting . . . sounds like the beginning of a really bad joke, huh? Well, not quite . . . it happens to be one of those everyday events that spoke volumes to me. I was on the island of Hvar in Croatia along with some fellow staff and a friend from Bosnia. We were inquiring about starting a ministry in the region sometime next year

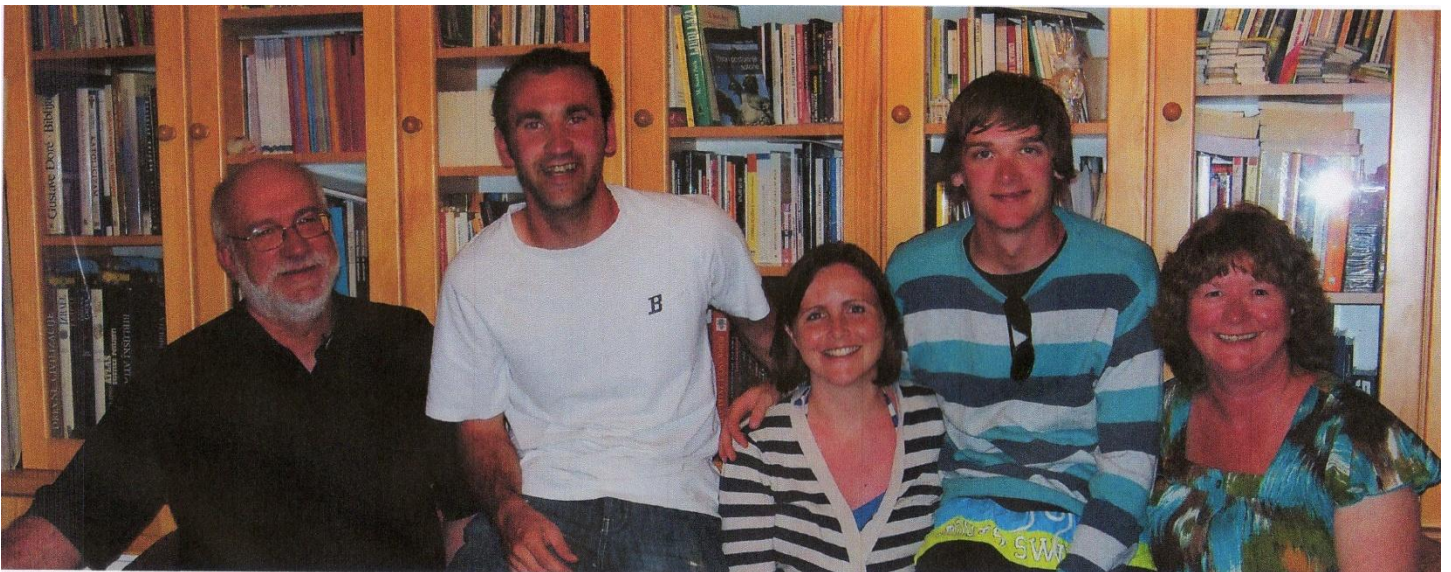
and a friend suggested we meet with the local priest. My friend told me - he is a great man and he opens doors for the gospel on this island. Interesting comment I thought, so we made an appointment to meet with the priest at 8pm one night. As we went into his office, which was in one of the oldest town squares in that part of the world - dating back to the 13th century - I felt like I was part of a scripted scene. The office was floor to ceiling book shelves, the desk piled with papers, Christian symbols and pictures lined the shelves and walls. This gentle, kind man welcomed us into his office and we began to share with him the vision of discipleship we have for that part of the world. His eyes lit up and our conversation for the next 2 hours was full of life. He said “please come, we need this investment in our young people”, “Let me know what I can do to help”, “Yes, you are welcome here, I look forward to seeing you next year”, etc. In a region of the world that is riddled with division and territorial mindsets, I was so blessed by this invitation and welcoming spirit. God had led us to the right man. This 2 hour meeting that began like a bad joke, ended with an invitation to come and invest, come and disciple. It ended in unity and an awareness that God is bigger than our cultural and denominational differences.

Next spring we plan to have a young couple move to Croatia and start to establish relationships. I am excited to be mentoring that couple and will be visiting them and teaching some seminars as they begin to minister to the Croatian people.

I would appreciate your prayers this month as I travel to Guyana and Brazil. Both trips I will be teaching groups of young local missionaries. I am looking forward to investing in their lives and encouraging them as they step out in leadership.

As always, thank you for investing in me and being a part of discipling the nations!

Lisa



Don Milo (the priest), Aldin (the Bosnian), Bexi (the Brit), Jarod (the Canadian), Lisa (the American)



Stewardship Committee Report

As we enter the final months of 2012, it is nice to report that the financial trends are moving in a positive direction. For the past several months average weekly giving is greater than the comparable months last year. You, the congregation, indeed kept your pledge commitment during the summer months. This helped us to have a healthy revenue stream that allowed us to painlessly pay our bills.

Our investment income is greater this year than last year thanks to a healthier stock and bond market. Our biggest revenue drawback continues to be negative income from rental properties; however, the trend, as you can see below, is in a positive direction.

Statistical Report for June

Budget for 2012	\$220,771.00
Budgetary needs through June 24, 2011	\$110,385.50
Our giving through 6/24/12	\$ 87,227.43
Investment Income	\$ 11,444.47
Rental Income (net)	\$ (2,594.12)
Total	\$ 96,077.78
 Amount <u>under</u> budget	 \$ 14,307.72

Statistical Report for July

Budget for 2012	\$220,771.00
Budgetary needs through July 29, 2012	\$131,613.60
Our giving through 7/29/12	\$102,657.11
Investment Income	\$ 13,552.39
Rental Income (net)	\$ (845.22)
 Amount <u>under</u> budget	 \$ 16,249.32

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
April	\$3527.09	\$3545.45
May	\$3271.90	\$2760.05
June	\$3403.33	\$3301.79
July	\$3085.94	\$2876.39

Gerald W. Hoenes
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

FUNdraising Committee



Thought you missed your chance to see Jonah? Well, you haven't missed the boat after all. We are pleased to inform you that due to an overwhelming demand for tickets to the Sight and Sound Theater to see Jonah, we have booked a second bus. The tickets are \$105 for adults, \$85 for teens, and \$65 for children. The price of the tickets include the bus, tip for the driver, lunch, and the show. We will also be making a stop at Kitchen Kettle Village for some sight seeing. The bus will be leaving at 10AM on Monday, Oct 8th, (Columbus Day) and returning that night at 9PM. See either Dawn Duran or Scott Sabo for tickets or more info. Tickets are going

fast so get yours today, and don't miss the chance to see JONAH live.

We have also started working on our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. We will keep you posted as more details become available.

The tentative date for our next FUNdraising meeting Thursday, Sept 20th, at 6:30PM. Anyone interested in joining in the FUN of planning our FUNdraisers, please come to our next meeting or contact Dawn Duran.

Dawn Duran, Chairperson



Summer Thank Yous

- Priscilla and Betsy for weeding and trimming around the church. Great Work!
- Drew, Jan, Joe, Dick, and Dave Stebbins for removing the roof off the trash area and preparing it for a new roof.
- Elaine for cleaning up and taking care of the flowers out front.
- The Hudaks, Jack Heil, and others for cleaning up the parking lot after the storm June 30.
- Our senior youth for cleaning up the cemetery after the big storm.
- The Men's Fellowship for a great mid summer picnic on July 22.
- Loretta, and Alice for their leadership on our Schoharie mission trip. It was great!
- Vic Werner for leading our hymn sings and providing special music over the summer months.
- Melvin Washington for supervising many of our summer improvements, cooking barbeques, making great ribs, potato salad, etc.
- Jan Jorgensen for many repairs and special projects.
- A gob of people for leading 40 Minute Club, refreshments, etc.
- Our church counting teams who stayed hours after everybody else went home each Sunday all summer.
- Gerry Reedell, Bob Gillis, lay assistants, and those who led worship when the pastor was away.

News from Our Boards and Denomination

Session will Continue to Meeting First Tuesdays

Elders – Our pastor will not be serving on the Committee on Ministry this year so session will continue on its normal first Tuesday night meetings. Please mark your calendars!

Fall Work Day October 13 9:00-Noon

Bring your Windex, rakes, and gloves at 9:00 a.m. on October 13 for our fall work day. We will remove screens for the winter, wash windows, rake and fertilize the yard, clean gutters, etc. Refreshments will be provided. Sign up in the vestibule!

Property Committee to Meet September 11

The Property Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00pm to assess where we are with winter fundraiser projects and what still should be done next year.

Our fall work day will be discussed at well. Call the office if you can help with property issues.

Winter Fund Raising Projects Nearing Completion

Last winter we sent out a list of serious maintenance deficiencies in our buildings and you responded generously. Contractors, mostly local, have been in our church and working on our grounds much of the summer.

These projects have been completed as of August 20:

1. Fire suppression system in the kitchen has been replaced and brought us to code.
2. Upstairs windows in Christian Ed. Building have been replaced with modern tilt down windows that are easy to wash from the inside (no more ladders).
3. Parking lots and cemetery drive have been resealed and restriped.
4. Big tree behind game room was cut down and removed.
5. New double doors have been placed in the entryway to Madden Hall.
6. The trash storage area has been prepped for a new roof. We will install it when the weather cools a bit.
7. The new sanctuary steps are in place. We replaced the bricks with 8' long bluestone step material. The railings will be installed soon and will be secured better than the old railings.

The only project that is still being worked on is the steeple sealing (it leaks). It will be done this fall and some repairs made. The good news is we have not experienced leakage this year.

General Assembly Meets in Pittsburgh

The highest governing body of our denomination is the General Assembly which meets every two years. They suggest changes to the constitution (which must be ratified by Presbyteries), approve budgets, and make official declarations for the denomination. Our pastor was a voting delegate at the last G.A. in 2010.

The two big issues before this group were the definition of marriage and divestiture of investments in countries that practice discrimination. Both issues were hotly debated, and the assembly backed down from changing either one. Marriage is still defined as a relationship between a man and a woman (not two persons) and investments in Israel and other places where “justice issues” are being discussed were left in place for the time being.

Overall, the assembly was concerned that recent changes to the constitution regarding ordination, the new form of government, etc. were contributing to disarray and decline, so they were inclined to kick the can down the road.

The next General Assembly is in 2014. It will be fun to see where the can is then.



Welcome Back!

I'm hoping everyone had an enjoyable summer. As our fall schedule begins, so do the many activities and programs.

Our schedule starts off September 15 with the Absecon Downtown Fair. In connection with the Fair we have our church-wide yard sale in the parking lot from 8am-1pm. During these hours we will have breakfast and lunch items for purchase, so please stop by the table.

Fellowship Committee News

If you would like to rent a table or two at \$10 each please contact Priscilla. Volunteers are also needed for various tasks. Please contact me for details at 992-5968.

In the following months there will be many more activities, so please be sure to read updates in the bulletin and Good News.

Sincerely,
Tina Brown

Evergreens Wednesday, September 26th, 12 Noon

At our September meeting, we will have Dr. Richard Lolla from Absecon speak to us about Natural Approaches to Arthritis Pain. We invite you to join us for this enlightening topic.

Bring a friend and a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Praise for Him!
Joanna Howell



Happy Friday

Happy Friday is coming back on September 14th at 6pm. Dawn Houseworth and Kathy Moore will be showing us how to save money at the supermarket using coupons. This is not just clipping out coupons - come on out and learn how to save money on your food bill!

As always we will begin with a covered dish supper so bring something to share. See you on Happy Friday, Sept. 14!

Vic Abelson

Please come join us for -
Fellowship, Friends, Fun and Food 4F Luncheon

Monday, **September 10th**, will be the first of our monthly luncheons, and we are very excited. Please join us from **11 am until 1 pm**. We will be serving lunch at 11:30. If you've joined us for the *Men's Club's* brunches you already know the food will be great. Leo and Seth have a great menu planned. The cost will be **\$7.00/person**. Unlike the brunches, the lunch will not be buffet style. We will be serving lunch while you enjoy the fellowship of those around you.

The lunches will be the 2nd Monday of the month for church members only, so please mark your calendars.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Karen Muldoon or Loretta Metz.

Sincerely,
Karen Muldoon

Sunday Breakfast Club

Breakfast will begin on Sunday, September 9th, and will be served from 8:45 to 9:00am. For those of you who have never taken part in this tradition, come and join us for the cheapest meal around-- \$1.00 for children 6 years and under and \$2.00 for everyone else. A big THANK YOU goes out to John Harvey who is stepping down after many years of service and another big thank you to Bryan Hawkes who will be stepping up to fill John's shoes. Also Joe Marshall has finally rolled his sleeves down for good from the dish washing detail, but Richard and Doris Wood have stepped up, so a big thank you goes out to all of them!! And many thanks to Edith Budd for her years of service setting up beforehand. Libby Little will be taking over her position. Thanks, Libby!

Our breakfast tradition would not be able to continue without the many helping hands that make this program run so smoothly. Remember that brunch is held every THIRD Sunday, so there will be NO breakfast that day. Save your appetite for the awesome food that Leo Ransone and his group will be preparing. If there are any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Serving you through Christ,
Kris Jenoriki (748-1214)

Lunch Bunch to Travel to Brigantine Hotel September 5

Meet at the church at 11:30 on Wednesday, September 5, or drive yourself to the Brigantine Hotel (it's a big building on the beach at 1400 Ocean Avenue) to eat at the Laguna Grill inside the hotel overlooking the beach.

If we're lucky we will see porpoises in the surf while we eat.



Brunch Menu for Sunday, September 16th

Sliced Honey Baked Ham
Cheddar Cheese Biscuits
Apple-Pear Conserve
Chicken a la King
Steamed Rice
Blueberry Pancakes with Maple Syrup
Scrambled Eggs
Green Beans Vinaigrette
Sliced Fresh Tomatoes
Banana Betty
Spiced Ginger Ice Cream

Please look in the vestibule for kitchen volunteer sign-up sheets. We need clean-up help every month and can always use preparation help on Saturdays. We also encourage any member who wants to share a favorite dish to contact Leo at 646-5154 or see him on Sunday in church. Please make enough of your dish for about 50 to 60 small servings, and we'll include it in our menu.



Please Mark

Saturday – November 10 – for our

*PRE-CHRISTMAS
CONGREGATIONAL EVENT*

"AMOS – REPORTING FROM BETHLEHEM!!!!"

An inspiring musical drama by Jim Hughes

(As always, a delicious "Nancy & Friends" dinner beforehand)

Planned by your Fellowship Committee, Tina Brown, Chair

(Complete details s-o-o-n)

Historic Steeple Top gets New Home

It was atop our church for 130 years. Then it was in the cemetery for 15 years. For the last two years it was in the chapel.

But in August the original steeple top found a new home in a lighted glass enclosure in the corner of Madden Hall. The light is on a timer and will go on every night for a few hours. You can see it all the way from the entrance to the vestibule.

Many thanks to Jerry Hoenes for his work on this project. The enclosure was made by Brent Young who made the historical cases in Howlett Hall.

A plaque will be placed on the cabinet identifying the top and years it was the highest point in Absecon. (We know that both the early train engineers and later airline pilots used our steeple as a landmark.)

The Williamson Memorial Fund will be recognized as sponsoring this project. Thank you all for your support of this historical item. Our church is 153 years old.

Church Bids Farewell to May Clay on August 21



May Clay went home to be with the Lord on August 16 and was buried in our cemetery on August 21. A luncheon followed in Madden Hall. The deacons did a great job.

May had been a very regular member of our church for 25 years. She had served on the deacons and Fellowship Committee and had been part of Evergreens, Lunch Bunch, Sarah Circle, and any church activity she knew about.

Many people, including Pastors Reedell and Cobb spoke of their recollections of May. About 50 people attended. We all agreed we will miss May forever. She had become a part of us. Grace Gras, especially, will miss her. Rest in peace, May. You deserve it. May was 92.

"...Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord...,they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." ~ Rev. 14:13

New Babies!



Lydia Marie Barton, daughter of Katie Channell and Ben Barton and granddaughter of John & Gay Channell, on Friday, August 10. Lydia weighed in at 7lb 11oz and is 20½" long.

Jelani, son of our Bakely House guest Jennifer. Jelani was born on Friday, Aug. 17. He weighed 8lb 2oz and is 20".



Moms and babies are all doing well. Congratulations and best wishes to both families!



Thank you from S.A.L.T. (Schoharie Area Long Term) Recovery

Dear Friends at The Presbyterian Church at Absecon:

Thank you so very much for your generous donation of time, money and prayers. Your group worked hard in both the homes and our café, making a very positive difference in this community. As you know, it is only by the efforts of such wonderful volunteers as your group that we have been able to achieve such progress in the recovery.

And you gave generously of dollars and gift cards! With our present dollar to dollar matching grant, and our leveraging ability, these monies will go a long way in helping families be able to rebuild and return to their homes.

Continued Blessings,
Sarah Goodrich, SALT Exec. Dir.

* * * * *

We would like to thank all the adults that went on the mission trip to Schoharie. Everyone made Chris and Nick feel like family. It was a very good experience for the boys and they had a good time also!

A special thanks to Pastor Cobb for "adopting" Chris and Nick for the week, or they would not have gone otherwise.

Chris and Nick said that they want to go back next year with you. Now that is a blessing.

Thanks again,
Barbara & Dan Hughes :)

* * * * *

Hi Church Family, WOW you did it again!

Thanks for all your concerns, well wishes and prayers. It's nice to know so many care. Also many thanks to the Deacons for their mobile home meals, it's a big help for the caregiver who ends up with a double job during the healing period. And a special thanks to Kris who keeps the food program all together.

To the Prayer Shawl crew, many thanks for all the work and prayers that went into the shawls.

God bless all of you.

Love,
Roger

* * * * *

I would like to thank everyone for all the many cards and prayers while I was in the hospital and recovering at home. God answered prayer.

Thank you,
Sonny Kleiner



“Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us – looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” ~ Hebrews 12:1b-2a

As I write this there isn't much left of the Summer Olympics but empty stadiums and a street sweeper's nightmare. By all accounts it was worth the billions of investment, and the British won more medals than expected. The Olympian athletes competed well, and new names like Gabby Douglas and Missy Franklin have been added to the list of future gold possibilities. And the champion gold medal winner of all times, Michael Phelps, announced his retirement after twenty years of “looking at nothing but the black line on the bottom of the pool.”

But not everyone went home in honor. An Algerian runner was sent home for not competing “in good faith” – he was obviously not trying to win. A badminton team was disciplined for throwing a match in hopes of getting a better position later. And a New Jersey judo competitor was sent home for failing a doping test. (He said someone had given him marijuana laces pastries a while back?!) Two Belgian athletes were sent home for “public drunkenness”.

There were also mishaps like the German weightlifter who dropped 420lbs on his neck (he's ok) and the diver who landed a back flop so loud it echoed through the stadium (he left the games).

But the stories of sacrifice are most gripping. Not just years of training, but families and parents who sacrificed everything to get an athlete prepared. Some declared bankruptcy. Some athletes are splurging on junk food and McDonalds fries that they haven't touched in five years or more. Some are starting to date and make friends, something they haven't had time to do. A few have been seen in church, thankful for the opportunity to have been in London.

It's interesting that the apostle Paul loved the imagery of Olympic games – the crown of victory (laurel wreath), the need to train and be faithful, and the running with perseverance mentioned above. By the time Paul wrote Olympic completion was such a part of Greek and Roman culture that even wars stopped while competitors came to Greece to compete.

I always found the analogy inspiring and challenging. But now that I've heard the sacrificial stories of so many it's almost overwhelming. The years of sacrifice and endless training take a toll.

But maybe we need that kind of inspiration. In two weeks we begin our fall schedule – youth groups, choirs, Sunday School, special meals, CROP Walk, events, etc. We would like to think of it as relaxing and fun, but that is not all it is. Commitment, patience, dedication and discipline are required. And the judge giving scores is

God Himself. He doesn't measure our performance as much as our sacrifice, attitude, and attention to Him. And His scoring is true. God is so much more than a judge – He is the coach who understands everything there is to know about us.

So let us prepare to do our best for Him. Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Anything less is not honorable.

By the way, there are many “teams” in our church that need you. Pick your events and sign up or call to volunteer. Together we make champion teams for Jesus! It's not enough to sit in the stands on Sunday mornings.

- Dave

persevere

to persist in anything undertaken;
maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty,
obstacles, or discouragement; continue
steadfastly.

Lay Assistants

2 10:00
9 9:30
11:00
16 9:30
11:00
23 9:30
11:00
30 9:30
11:00

Head Ushers

2 10:00 Vic & Rita Abelson
9 9:30 Carol Thomas, Elaine Risley
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
16 9:30
11:00
23 9:30 Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer
11:00
30 9:30
11:00

Collection

2 10:00 Edie Budd
9 9:30 Ginny Davenport, Joe Marshall
16 9:30 Joan Pattky, Don Mills
23 9:30
30 9:30

Deacons for the Month

9:30 Irene Hunter
11:00 Mary Bew

Forty Minute Club

2 K-3 Dawn Duran, Courtney Gras
4-7 Fran Tanner, Linda Gillis

Acolyte (9:30)

9
16
23
30

Nursery (9:30)

2 (10:00) Jennifer Platt
9 Gloria Achamizo
16 Alice Malfi
23 Fran Tanner
30 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

2 John Channell
9 Barb Hughes
16 Dirk Williamson
23 Vic Abelson
30 Ed Little

Refreshment Hosts

2
9
16
23
30

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

2 No Breakfast
9 Set-up – Bob Wilkenloh
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Bill & Ginny Davenport
16 Join us for Brunch!
23 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies & Jean Delesantro
30 Set-up – Linda Adkisson
Cook – Russ Adkisson
Clean-up – Gayle Ackerman

