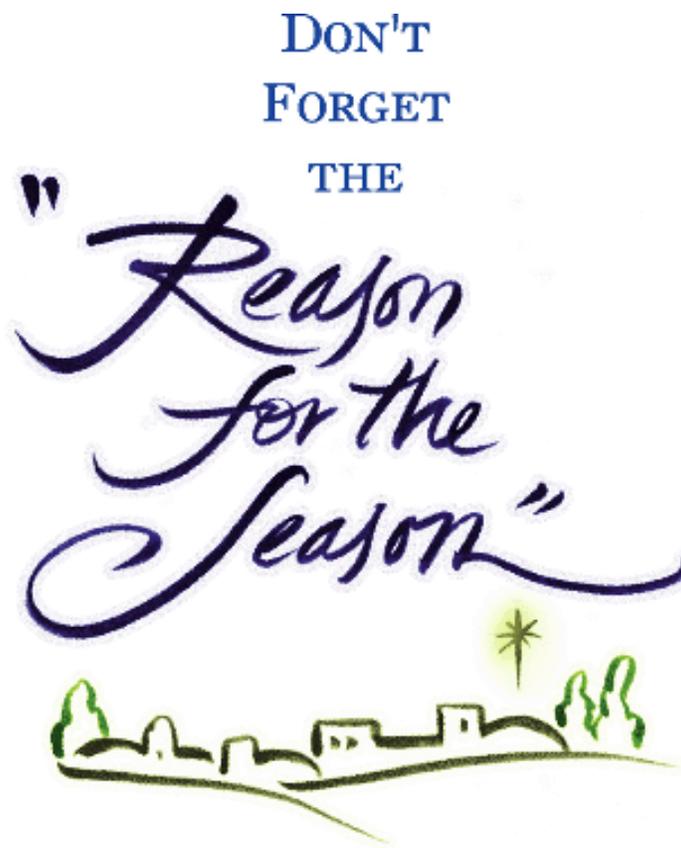


Good News *December 2012*

Verse of the Month: *“For my eyes have seen your salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ~ Luke 2:30,32*



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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

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



Holiday Schedule

Christmas Schedule – Please take note

Dec. 2 Communion – first candle on the Advent wreath

Dec. 3 – we start decorating for Christmas

Dec. 5 – Lunch Bunch to Romanelli's

Dec. 9 – Christmas Play; one service at 10:00 followed by lunch and birthday party for Jesus

Dec. 10 – Monthly Monday Luncheon with Christmas activities and music by Harold Hawkes

Dec. 12 – Evergreens' Christmas Luncheon at Smithville Inn

Dec. 14 – "Happy Friday" Christmas

Dec. 16 – Brunch Sunday (10:30am) with carol sing

Dec. 16 – 3:30 Candlelight service for bereaved

Dec. 23 – 5:00 Christmas caroling and delivering fruit baskets

Dec. 24 – 5:00 Family Worship with pageant

7:00 Traditional Worship with cantata – "Joy to the World"

Dec. 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

Mailbox System to be in Place by Dec. 2

Please use this system to exchange cards, etc. New address directories will be in them in mid December. Offering envelopes for 2013 will be in them by December 9.

Christmas Pointsettia/Mission Bouquet Orders

Order forms for Pointsettias (\$6.00 each) and Mission Bouquets (donation) are available in church or from our website (abseconpresby.org). Please submit forms with payment to the church office by **Dec. 12** for Pointsettias and **Dec. 16** for Mission Bouquets.



This is a busy time of the year for everyone, and Christian Education is no exception. There are a lot of great special events planned for the Christmas season - keep your eyes and ears open for announcements!

Thanks to all for your support and participation of our wide range of great programs!

In His Service,
Scott Sabo
Christian Education Chair

Sunday School and Related News for December

Our Halloween party went well despite the approaching hurricane. The kids loved the black light room, and the decorations made this party one of the best ever. JoAnn Sabo does a great job picking out very cool

prizes, and many people donated candy. Russell Adkisson did a fine job driving the haunted hay ride with the assistance of Jeff Tanner.

Our first Family Worship Sunday was well attended, and each class did a wonderful job with their parts. In particular the high school class presented a very effective drama about placing faith in Jesus. Rob Perry presented special music with all 1st-6th graders to the familiar tune of Good Love. Rob wrote new lyrics to the melody to send the message that Jesus loves. The kids and congregation enjoyed this very much.

Our first Mission Sunday of the year went very well in light of the fact that our Mission Director, Lee Wolff, was called out of town quickly. Still, she carefully laid out the plans and most of the ingredients we needed to whip up some Thanksgiving goodie bags. Major thanks must go to Leo Ransone, Denise Lenz, and Ed Little for taking charge of the kitchen. A big thank you also goes to Karen Little, Tina Harvey, and many parents who rolled up their sleeves to help with the making of Italian wedding soup, perogi casseroles, orange-vanilla cookies, and autumn leaf placemats. Finally we must thank Linda Gillis, Barbara Hughes, Janna Beth Cobb, the A₂J youth group, and all others who helped in delivering the packages to 30 members of the church.

We were able to send off 7 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. I was assured that every little bit helps. Thanks to all who participated.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ We will present our **Christmas musical**, The Bethlehem Project, on **December 9th at the 10 am single service**. This will be followed by our annual **Birthday Party for Jesus Luncheon**. Sign ups will be forthcoming.
- ◆ Quite the **cast of characters** will be performing in this year's Christmas musical. We look forward to seeing our young people on stage. The singing I overheard in a rehearsal sounded great, and the songs sounded like fun. I'm sure this production, directed by Linda Gillis, Dawn Houseworth, and Fran Tanner, will be terrific!
- ◆ Please remember to **bring hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves** to our Birthday Party for Jesus. These gifts will be given to Sr. Jean's people.
- ◆ Lions and Lambs will lead us again during the luncheon with a **Cupcake Fundraiser for Sister Jean's Kitchen**. For the cost of \$1, kids and adults can purchase and decorate their own cupcakes.
- ◆ This year's **Advent Quarter Books** will benefit The Atlantic City Rescue Mission. The books have already gone out and should be returned on or before Christmas Eve.
- ◆ Our **Christmas Eve Christmas Pageant** will take place on Christmas Eve at the 5 pm Family Service. All participants should arrive by 4:15 pm to get ready. Rehearsals will begin once The Bethlehem Project is over. In fact, sign ups will take place during the Birthday Party for Jesus luncheon. A schedule will be announced at that point. Janna Beth Cobb and Dawn Lewis will again direct this production. Many parents lend helping hands to make this a memorable event.
- ◆ We are inviting everyone to **bring a bell** to ring at the 5 pm service on **Christmas Eve**. We will be singing ***Come On Ring Those Bells*** at the close of the pageant before we sing *Silent Night*. Near the end of the service we will sing/play a song where all our bells can ring out the joy we have in the birth of Jesus! Any bell or jingle bells will do!

- ◆ Do you like popcorn? We will be watching a movie **December 30th**. We have yet to work out the details, but we should have one for the elementary ages and another for the older kids.

May you and your family be blessed and filled with God’s love this Christmas season. Let’s ring those bells to rejoice in His birthday.

Love, Priscilla



Lions & Lambs:

Lions & Lambs wish to thank everyone for their contributions to our Thanksgiving fund-raiser for Sister Jean's Kitchen. Boy did we have a great time making that turkey!!! Our praise for the Living Word in Matthew 25: 35. As we continue to live that word as best we can, we'll be thanking you for your continued generosity in our efforts to make our final donation of the season to Sister Jean's with our "Happy Birthday Jesus!" Cupcake Fund-raiser. We hope that you all will be able to celebrate with us right after the Christmas play. Our families will be meeting in the beginning of January to plan our winter and spring events with a kick off lesson on the last commandment - a perfect one to visit right after Christmas!

May Our Heavenly Father continue to Bless and Keep you and yours. Amen!

Love,
JoAnn Sabo

Addicted₂Jesus (A₂J)



Much of the A₂J scheduled activities and events were cancelled during November due to an illness in the Gillis household. The youth finished collecting loose change of OVFC and created a Thanksgiving food baskets with the Deacons providing a turkey to

a family in need. The youth participated in The Bethlehem Project learning the music and participating as choir members. Thank you to all the A₂J families who prayed for us during Chris’ illness and were more than understanding when activities and events had to change.



The A₂J schedule promises to keep the youth busy this month. Youth continue with service projects during the month including Road Clean Up on Pitney Road, and creating a Christmas Food Basket for a family in need. Youth will be participating in The Bethlehem Project and enjoying a Christmas celebration including a grab bag.

The lunch schedule for A₂J during December is as follows: 12/2 Nale (Lunch) & McManus (Desset/Drink); 12/23 Achamizo (Lunch) & Little (Desset/Drink). A lunch schedule

for the new year will be emailed.



Join Us: All Youth in 5th through 8th grade are invited to join us weekly. Guests are encouraged and welcomed to attend the program. Please contact Linda Gillis about registration or bringing a guest on her home phone 573-5279 or her cell 533-5187.

In His Service,
Linda Gillis



Senior High Youth

I would like to thank Chris, Nick and Justin Hughes, Barbara Hughes, and John Harvey for coming out to Brigantine to help a church family after Sandy made her mess. Sandy also played havoc with our youth group schedule, but we are back now.

December's Dinner schedule:

- 3rd.....Chris Harvey dinner.....Chris Hughes salad/drinks
- 10th Tony Mourao dinner.....Chris Gillis Salad/drinks
- 17th Gia Espisito Dinner.....Sam Burgess salad/ drinks
- 24
- 31 NO SCHOOL....CHRISTMAS BREAK

Karen Muldoon Co-director



Men's Fellowship to Meet December 1

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:30am on Saturday, December 1.

We will plan for our Valentine's Dinner.

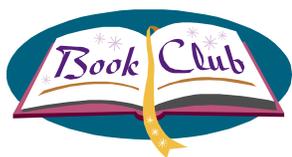
Women's Circles



The past year, the women's circles have been studying the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew's gospel. This "sermon" probably covered several days of preaching. Jesus began his sermon with words that seem to contradict each other. Jesus warned his followers to not expect fame and fortune, but mourning, hunger and persecution. Nevertheless, Jesus assured his disciples they would be rewarded - but perhaps not in this life. Jesus announced that God's kingdom is near, and that kingdom is organized differently from worldly kingdoms. In the kingdom of heaven, wealth and power and authority are unimportant. Kingdom people seek different blessings and benefits, and they have different attitudes.

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

The end of October we sent out "goodie boxes" to 28 college students. Now we are collecting hats, gloves, scarves and socks for small children in K through 4th grade. Please bring these items in by Sunday, December 16th. We will deliver them later in that week to the Charles L. Spragg School in Egg Harbor City.



Christian Readers Book Club

We will not be meeting until January 16, 2013 but maybe you would like to get a head start on the books we will be discussing on that date. They are:

“Christmas at Harrington's” by Melody Carlson and

“Blame it on the Mistletoe” by Joyce Magnin

Enjoy!



Worship Committee

We have been blessed with such talent. Jan Cobb and the Bell Choir played beautifully. We also heard from the Children’s choir. You did a great job. Due to Sandy, Halloween and Veteran’s Day, the Senior Youth Group did not get a chance to practice with Harold. But they’ll be back next month. Harold will be playing Christmas music at our Monthly Monday Luncheon (formerly Fellowship, Faith, Food, Fun) Dec. 10th.

We look forward to our children’s Christmas musical at 10:00am on December 9. There will be a continental breakfast that day. Lunch and birthday party for Jesus will follow the service.

We are looking for someone to help us by making phone calls to schedule communion servers. If you are interested please call or see me at church.

In my rush out the door to get to Session, I forgot my lay assistant sign up sheet. If you would like to serve as lay assistant please let me know.

Have a Blessed month,
Karen Muldoon

Christmas Musical: The Bethlehem Project



The Bethlehem Project is being presented Sunday, December 9th at a 10 am worship service. The children have been working hard and are getting excited to present the play. The Bethlehem Project is a fun and relevant Christmas story with a twist – of course! There is trouble in Old Bethlehem!!! It seems that the Bethlehem Kids can’t get along with the Shepherd Kids. Will this still and peaceful village ever be the same? Not if the “(very) new kid” on the block has anything to say about it! Join us after the worship service for Jesus Birthday Celebration.

December Rehearsal Schedule:

Saturday, 12/1	10 – 3 p.m.	Saturday, 12/8	10 – 3 p.m.
Monday, 12/3	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Sunday, 12/9	8 am
Wednesday, 12/5	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.		

Many people help make this happen! I'd like to take a moment and give thanks as without them this would not be possible. First, are Fran Tanner and Dawn Houseworth who attended most rehearsals helping chorale the squirrels...I mean children and Fran for assistance with costumes. Roger Wolcott for his inspired set design and build. It's amazing that he could attend rehearsal and come up with a beautiful set. Chris and Bob Gillis for making the children's joyful noise reach the audience. The A2J youth who provided voice accompaniment as choir members. The parents, who ensured that their children attended rehearsal, learned lines and memorized songs. The children, who learned and memorized their parts and the music. Finally, last but not least, Priscilla for her guidance and direction.

In His Service,
Linda Gillis



Special Memorial Service

We are going to try something new for December this year. We want to have a memorial candle lighting service available to all Church families who have suffered the loss of a loved one - recent or past.

It will be Sunday 12/16th at 3:30 PM.

Bob Gillis has offered his help to do a power point presentation of pictures that will be shown on screen during the service. If you are interested please contact Dee and Jack Heil at 266-1179 or during Church service - your picture will be returned.

We will also be doing a memorial tree for Christmas in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Pictures of your loved one which will be placed on an ornament to be hung on the tree. Pictures should be 3'x4' or 4'x5' no larger. Please contact Dee and Jack Heil.



Christmas Eve Offering

The Mission Committee has designated the Women's Shelter for our Christmas Eve offering, pending approval by the Session.

Several weeks ago there was an article about the shelter and need for renovations to the building that has housed its 18 bed shelter for 25 years. Donations and government funding are dwindling, and the building is in great need of repair. The Mission Team has worked with the shelter before and feels this is a real need in the community.



Attention!!!

There's a special Christmas tree in the vestibule with angel tags on it. The Salvation Army is giving us the opportunity to help them give each child a present for their Christmas. Let's help them out by taking a tag. Each tag has a Child's name on it and a suggestion as to what they would like. Clothing sizes are also on the tag.

Please take a tag, buy a gift and bring it back to the church and put it under the tree. The gift may be wrapped with the tag securely attach to it. All gifts must be under the tree by December 16. We will be taking them over to the Salvation Army on the 17th. We will make only one trip so please be sure your gift is under the tree by that date.

Any questions see a member of the Mission Committee.

Thank you!

The Mission Committee

News from Lisa Whitaker – The Cost of Non-Discipleship

Yes, you read that correctly. We often hear about the cost of discipleship, the cost of following Jesus, the cost of giving your life to God. How often have we heard about the cost of non-discipleship? Think about that for a minute (or 5 seconds). What price do we pay in our lives when we ignore the opportunity for discipleship?

As I mentioned before, I am working on a Master's Degree in Christian Formation and Discipleship, and that question was posed by one of the professors. I have to admit, I had never thought of discipleship from that perspective. I had not given much thought to the price I pay in my life when I DO NOT seek to grow in my faith. As much as I have thought about the cost for following God, I had not thought that there is a price people pay for NOT following God. A very high price.

When God invites me to do something that will help me grow in my relationship with Him, I have a choice to make - I can say "Yes, Lord, I will seek to grow in that area" no matter what it costs me. OR I can say, "No Lord, I will not do that." And usually the reason I say NO is because - "it comes with a price". I have to sacrifice, or make a change or step out in faith. We all are so aware of the price we pay when we say YES to discipleship. We know it will cost us time and resources. We will have to make choices that may not be popular or we may have to stop doing something we secretly love out of obedience to what God is speaking to us. Yes, there is a cost to discipleship.

However we ignore the fact that when we say NO, we are also paying a price. No one ever points out that when we say NO to growing in our faith, we also pay. The irony of that price is that it comes in the form of stunted growth, a stagnant life, the status quo. The price tag involves a lack of peace, a vague relationship with God, boredom in our spiritual life.

You may be wondering why I am writing about this in the Christmas newsletter? Bah humbug, Lisa, that is not very holiday-like! Well, actually - Christmas is all about Jesus saying YES . . . YES, I will take on humanity . . . YES, I will be born as a babe . . . YES, I will pay the price, because Jesus knew the cost of saying NO. He knew that Him saying NO would cost all of us a relationship with God - He knew that if He said NO, the price was MUCH higher than if He said YES.

As you begin a new year, is God asking you to step out in faith? Is God asking you to pay the price of being a disciple? Is God inviting you to grow in your relationship with Him? Before you say NO because the cost is too high, remember - there is a price to pay for non-discipleship too. The question really isn't WILL you pay the price . . . the question is WHICH price will you pay?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Lisa

PS - Please pray for me as I travel to Ukraine to do staff training in the beginning of December. When I return, I look forward to being with the Evergreens for their Christmas luncheon.



Can you believe its December already? This year has been filled with so many blessings and the Deacons want to thank everyone who has helped make our church a welcome place for all. We are so very great full for YOU, your time, talent and generous donations this past year!

Our annual Harvest Home Collection for the Food Bank of New Jersey was so appreciated. As you know Hurricane Sandy used most of the Food Bank's supply of donations, so this year they truly needed our support. Thank you also, to everyone who donated jackets and coats. The Food Bank will let us know the total (in pounds) collected. Your generosity during difficult times is truly appreciated. A thank you is in order to all the youth who helped bring the donated items to the back room for pick up during the Brunch.

This year our church hosted the annual community Thanksgiving service and the Deacons supplied all the refreshments for this event. We wish to thank everyone who helped make this a success (donations of baked goods, set up and clean up). Thank you!

Next Deacons Meeting will be Saturday, December 1, 10 am in Cobb Lounge.

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



Remember: Together, WE Light the Way

Stewardship Committee Report

Our annual Stewardship Commitment Campaign is underway. All members of the congregation were given their assignment: make an effort to reach out to people in our respective communities and invite those seeking a spiritual home to visit our church and sample what we offer. Once they have spent some time at a service, a social or cultural event, encourage them to consider becoming a member of the church. Secondly, each of you was asked to consider taking a Forward Step or a Step of Faith when you plan your budget for next year. Our costs are going up, and we need additional revenue. Thirdly, review the many possibilities for becoming involved in the church by looking at the Talent Bank Questionnaire located in the Narthex. Every member of the congregation should be involved in at least one activity requiring a time commitment.

Please complete and return your Faith or Pledge card. If you misplaced yours, additional cards are available in the Narthex or the church office.

If we all make the effort, our church will grow and remain what we want it to be.

Statistical Report for October

Budget for 2012	\$220,771.00
Budgetary needs through October 28, 2012	\$186,806.40
Our giving through 10/28/12	\$145,815.08
Investment Income	\$ 18,955.19
Rental Income (net)	\$ 1,082.06
Total	\$165,852.33
Amount <u>under</u> budget	\$ 20,954.07

	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
January	\$3257.33	\$3665.34	July	\$3085.94	\$2876.39
February	\$3384.29	\$3126.90	August	\$2851.41	\$2202.63*
March	\$3326.92	\$3391.40	September	\$3384.49	\$3594.00
April	\$3527.09	\$3545.45	October	\$3507.46	\$2924.83
May	\$3271.90	\$2760.05			*closed 8/28
June	\$3403.33	\$3301.79			

Gerald W. Hoenes
Stewardship Committee Chairperson



FUNdraising Committee – Golf/Auction

It's never too early to talk golf/auction. We have committed to having this year's event at **HARBOR PINES, May 19th**. Mark your calendars! If you have not played the course yet, let me tell you it is beautiful. Golf Digest said "By far the best for a golf experience", Zagat Survey said "Top rated course in South Jersey". Add to that a hot dog lunch and an Italian Buffet dinner and it's only a few more dollars than last year's event. The dinning room is big enough to accommodate a large crowd. The outside porch has 2 TVs and an amazing view overlooking the course. There is plenty of room to showcase our auction items and door prizes.

We are still in our early stage of planning, but it's never too early to sign up, donate or sponsor a hole. This year's hole sponsors will not only have their sign at a hole, but the TVs will be showing the names as well. There are TVs on the porch, bar, entrance and Pro Shop. We have already received donations. We are also looking at how we can make this event even better than last year's for our golfers and non-golfers. We have a lot of GREAT Ideas! We are very excited about the 2013 golf/auction!! We will keep you informed through the Good News, the bulletin and flyers.

Sincerely,
Karen Muldoon



December Thank Yous

There were many activities and repairs to our church in November. Special thanks to the following:

- The deacons for the luncheons following the services for Ida Juhrs and Eric Newell. Also for the pie social following the Community Thanksgiving Service.
- The Fellowship Committee for a great job on our Congregational Event on November 10.
- Melvin for researching and purchasing the new lighting for the church.
- Pastor and Jan Jorgensen for regrading the playground sidewalk. Hopefully rain water won't lay against the building any more.
- All those elected to church office on November 25.
- The volunteers who helped at the home of Dave & Judy Stebbins after the hurricane.
- Leo, Sandy, Melvin, Dawn, and our senior youth for a great job on the Sunday Brunch November 18.



Fellowship Committee News

The Jim Hughes Event was a great success. The evening began with a wonderful meal prepared by Nancy Sooy and her many Kitchen Helpers and ended with a wonderful performance by Rev. Hughes.

Thank you to the many helpful hands that set up, decorated, served and cleaned up. Your efforts are always sincerely appreciated, and these events would not be possible if not for your dedication. Also, thank you to all who provided the many desserts that were served. Your treats were delicious.

We are planning for our annual soup sales. If you would like to donate your favorite recipe, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Tina Brown

Lunch Bunch to Romanelli's December 5

Meet at the church at 11:30 or at Romanelli's at noon for our Christmas Lunch Bunch. Holiday attire is appropriate.

Your Fellowship Committee cordially invites
everyone to share in -----

An EVENING WITH JOHN TAYLOR!
in concert.....

SAT.... JAN. 26th - 2013

at 7p

Love offering

All seats Reserved in advance

Call Joanie for tickets starting January 2nd
641-1839 (Handicapped requests given preference when possible)

Please Read Carefully - - - -

Due to the ever-present possibility of "BAD" winter weather, we will NOT have a dinner or special refreshments - (thus relieving our faithful Fellowship Volunteers of a great concern).

Our Love Offering will support John's incredible Christian Concert Ministry - There is NO CHARGE for this INSPIRING EVE - Just ask for a TICKET with your Reserved Seat Number on it!!! John is driving from FL (where he's lived for several years) to visit family and will give several concerts in NJ while here.

(NOTE:) We may have "Surprise Guests" for John (and us) - making this truly an evening to remember. If you have never heard John Taylor in concert, do read the RE-INTRODUCING - JOHN TAYLOR article included in this issue.



Monthly Monday (formerly Fellowship, Faith, Food, and Fun) Luncheon

What was previously known as Fellowship, Faith, Food, and Fun (4 F) now has a new name that is more descriptive - Monthly Monday. If you have not yet been to one of our monthly lunches, you have been missing out! The only thing better than the food is the company.

Our next lunch will be on **December 10th**. We will have a craft for you to complete, and Harold Hawkes will be playing Christmas music.

There is a new sign up board with a blue background that was unveiled in church on Nov. 25. Please sign up there **by December 6** if you will be attending or contact Loretta Metz or myself.

HELP: If you are interested in helping with the lunches, please call or see me at church. The committee will be having a meeting before our January lunch.

Please join us December 10th @ **11 am** for crafts, music, fellowship, laughs, games and a great meal.

Have a Blessed month,
Karen Muldoon

Happy Friday December 14th 6pm

Come join us for a happy time singing Christmas songs on Happy Friday, December 14. The words will appear on a screen with a bouncing ball. We will all sing together. Bring the kids! As usual bring the dish of your choice for our meal.

Come out at 6pm and join us for a jolly time.

Vic Abelson



Re-Introducing – John Taylor - -

John Taylor is truly a dedicated servant of the lord. He has an unflinching faith, not bowing to winds of compromise. His purpose, to present the gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian music. “I want to be the Christian music version of Billy Graham.”

“I want to present to my Lord, barrels of crowns to lay at his feet when I stand before him on that glorious day.”

His vocal range is indeed profound and dramatic. He sings from the depths of his spirit.

“The music I sing has to minister to me first. It must glorify Jesus Christ and magnify his love, grace, compassion and forgiveness.

“My relationship with Jesus had come in my early years. I was a prayer warrior. I could pray and now I could sing.”

John sang his way through high school. During those years he won competitions for Male Popular Vocalist of New Jersey and the following year Male Classical Vocalist of New Jersey. The same person in two separate categories had never been done before. He also performed in Cole Porter and George Gershwin reviews as well as tenor and baritone soloist in The Messiah, works from John Michael Talbott and Vivaldi’s Requiem with the New Jersey Symphony. John states, “I sang for three different services and churches traveling between them on Sundays. I sang in Catholic and Protestant churches with diverse congregations and developed a love for different styles of music from the more reverent traditional hymns to fast paced African American gospel songs.”

Over the years John has sung for Presidents Ford, Reagan and Bush as well as Bob Hope, General and Mrs. Westmorland, Dick Clark, Ed McMahon, and many Governors, Senators and Statesmen.

Taylor, now a recording artist, has offered his musical talent at Fort Dix for many years. He has performed with the Gaithers Christmas Concert in Philadelphia, bringing 35,000 people to their feet.....and has been a 'sought after' soloist at The Ocean City Tabernacle for many years.

(On Saturday, Dec. 8th, he will be featured in The Tabernacle's Angelus Chorus' Christmas Concert. Performance is 4p!)



~ Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year ~

I will donate money to our church instead of buying Christmas cards!

God Bless
Elaine Risley



I am having trouble writing with my hands being so bad that I am sending my Christmas Blessings here:

May the peace of Christ,
rule in our hearts
and the fullness of God's message
live within us.

A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all..

Betsy Cunius





In Our Father's House

Eric Newell – October 31, 2012

Church Family Directory Update

Isaac & Georgina Umoren
524 Franklin Blvd.
Absecon, NJ 08201

A NOTE OF



Hi:

They say: "There is no such thing as a free lunch!"

Well last Sunday the young folks proved that wrong. To our surprise they showed up at our doorstep with a fine lunch which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Bien Merci
Blagadariou Vas
Bolshoi Cspaceba
Muchas Gracias
Dankashoen

.....oh yeah!

THANKS VERY MUCH.....OUTSTANDING!!!.....
Frank & Marge Loeb

* * * * *

Please send a heartfelt thank-you to the Youth Group for their wonderful help with Sandy clean-up. It was such an "icky" job bagging up wet nasty insulation and we really appreciate their efforts. Also help with yard clean-up.

We would also like to thank the Deacons for the great basket. Came in handy as we had helpers packing up the house.

Judy and David

* * * * *

The Newell family thanks everyone for the many expressions of sympathy, prayer, beautiful cards, and other kindness upon the passing of Eric Newell.

We also thank the Deacons for the beautiful display of food after the funeral.

Thanks again,
Wayne and Essie

* * * * *

The Channell family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and cards following the passing of John's father. We also thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Deacons, and Rev. Cobb for their thoughtfulness. Your kind words and actions are deeply appreciated.

* * * * *

To the young people of our church and their leaders,

Thank you for the surprise you left on our doorstep, sorry we were not home.

The placemats with autumn leaves remind us of Thanksgiving and your efforts make us more thankful for our church.

Bless all of you and keep Jesus in your hearts, as well as following in His footsteps.

Love,
Roger and Jinny Wolcott

* * * * *

To Rev. Dave, Rev. Gerry, Deacons, and All Others,

Following my recent many weeks of absence from the Sunday services, I want to express my appreciation to all for the shower of cards, prayers, visits, phone calls and foodstuffs. It was wonderful to be so supported and certainly helped my recovery from medical problems. To you all a big sincere THANK YOU! I'll see you soon.

Ruth Bird

* * * * *

Bob and I thank all who have been praying for Bobby's recovery. I truly believe it has helped. Staff repeatedly walk in after reading his chart and exclaim over how good he looks. We expect him to be an outpatient by Thanksgiving.

All of your thoughts and prayers do support the soldiers and help them when they need it most.

Heartfelt thanks,
Lee and Bob Wolff

* * * * *

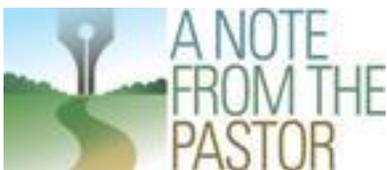
Thank you for the Thanksgiving dinner. It was delicious. We especially liked the handmade placemats.

Russ & Linda Adkisson

There is Still a Need 4 Volunteers – “Try it – You’ll Love It!”

The Pine Cone Gift Shop at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Mainland Division, continues to look for volunteers to help in their gift shop. Come and be part of the fun and rewarding service to your community hospital. (Volunteer 3 hours and receive a delicious free lunch or dinner!) Help is especially needed around the Holiday Season!

For information call 652-1000 and ask for the gift shop.



Where Is the Real Jesus?

“And he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.” ~ Isaiah 63:8b-9

“I want to go to the Holy Land” Abraham Lincoln told Mary Todd on Good Friday 1865 (the year our little sanctuary was built). The first couple took a carriage ride around Washington that day. “I want to see that ancient place where Moses, Solomon and Jesus walked. What a joy that would be.”

Lincoln needed some joy. The Civil War had been raging five years, and the president was visibly tired, wrinkled, and walked with a stagger. Not long after he was killed at Ford's Theater.

So I don't want to spoil the movie for you, but that's the way Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" ends. After Janna Beth and I saw the movie I went home and turned on the evening news. Rockets were being launched against the Holy City and the bodies of Palestinian children were being dragged out of the rubble. Both sides were making unrealistic demands, and the world braced for another Holy War around that sleepy Palestinian town where a homeless family gave birth to a child in the midst of Roman occupation forces collecting taxes and counting noses in order to secure their stronghold over these poor working class Jews.

The Holy Land, the site of origins for three of the world's greatest religions, is still a hotbed of controversy and war. Abraham Lincoln was not wrong about much, but if he thought he could escape controversy and the horrors of war by going to the Holy Land he was sadly mistaken. Maybe the president was absorbed by the music about "Silent Night" and the manger music about cattle lowing and "the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay". The record says Bethlehem was packed with people, and babies born in stables are not in a sleep conducive situation.

Sorry, Mr. President, but the Jesus whose birth we celebrate didn't come into a world sanitized from filth and conflict. He came into a world that would have understood the horrors of the Civil War and the injustice of slavery. Jesus' world dealt with raging storms on the Sea of Galilee and brothers taking up arms against each other. It was a world ravaged by sin, the same as our own.

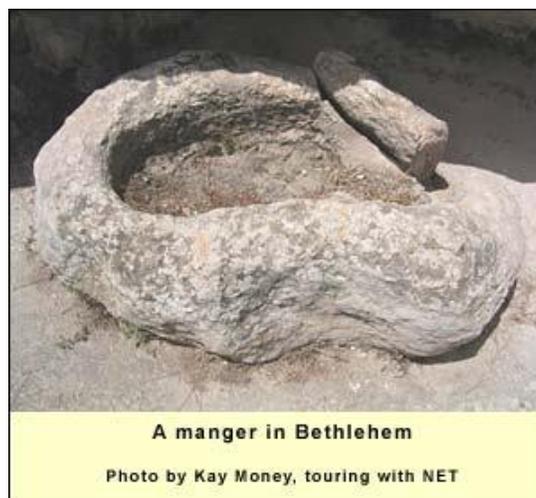
The Good News, Mr. Lincoln, is that this Jesus is for the widow, the orphan and the sorrows of families who have lost so much through death and destruction. He belongs, like Lincoln, to the ages. Only this Jesus has power to redeem the ages. He comes to the real world to redeem the real world.

So while our cultural Christmas is preoccupied with Black Friday, the perfect Christmas tree, and overindulgence, the real Jesus still comes to the real world. He is there in our losses, our heart break, our worry, and our relationships. And in many moments of loving support He is there through us.

So if your Christmas isn't so merry, look around you. You are more likely than ever to find Jesus close by.

See You in Church,

- Dave



Lay Assistants

2 9:30
11:00
9 10:00
16 9:30
11:15
23 9:30
11:00
24 5:00
7:00
30 9:30
11:00

Head Ushers

2 9:30
11:00
9 10:00
16 9:30
11:15
23 9:30
11:00
24 5:00
7:00
30 9:30
11:00

Collection (9:30)

2
9
16
23
24 5:00
7:00
30

Deacons for the Month

9:30 Naida Burgess
11:00 Mary Bew

Acolyte (9:30)

2
9
16
23
30

Nursery (9:30)

2 Gloria Achamizo
9 Alice Malfi
16 Fran Tanner
23 Jennifer Platt
30 Gloria Achamizo

Van Drivers

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

Refreshment Hosts

2 Pat Hudak
9 Lunch Birthday Party for Jesus
16 Join us for Brunch
23 Dawn Houseworth
30

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

2 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood
9 Continental Breakfast
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



