

*Good News*

*February 2013*

**Verse of the Month:** *“Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.’” ~ Luke 9:35*



*The Presbyterian Church at Absecon*

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## Annual Meeting Finds Church Doing Well

The gavel came down at 11:30, and the annual meeting of our church received reports and did business appropriate to the congregation and corporation. Elected to serve on the congregational Nominating Committee were Louise Speitel, Karen Little, Tina Brown, and Irene Hunter.

New Business included a discussion of ways to attract and retain members. We need better P.R., and everyone was encouraged to bring a camera to photograph events. Jerry Hoenes has agreed to write brief articles for the local newspapers to

go with these photos for any committee or group that asks for his help.

The congregation was assured that the Mission/Evangelism Committee is looking into the background of Eastern Service Workers before committing to financial support.

There was also an extended discussion of custodial care, steeple repairs plumbing needs, and the need for a spring fundraiser since we didn't have a winter one.

The congregation retired to Madden Hall at 12:30pm for a pizza lunch.

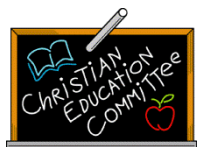


## Winter Weather Advisory

We do not advertise on radio or media when church activities are canceled due to ice or snow. You will need to call the office where we will leave a message on the answering machine.

Generally, activities are curtailed if there is an advisory or the police have restricted traffic. Also, if schools are closed then any youth activities are normally canceled as well.

As always, if you do not feel comfortable coming out in bad weather **do not** feel obligated to attend if worship or activities have not been canceled. We'd rather you be safe than sorry!



## Sunday School and Related News for Sunday School

We enjoyed Three Kings Epiphany Sunday. Many thanks to Chris, Nick, and Justin Hughes for acting that out and to Lions and Lambs for encouraging us all to share our gifts with Jesus. We enjoyed a drama presented by the Senior Youth Group, a Call to Worship from A2J, and our second Family Worship Sunday.

## Up Coming Events for February

- ◆ Our 2<sup>nd</sup> mission project will take place on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School classes will be cooking, baking, and creating in order to prepare a number of cheer baskets. Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, cards, and crafts are hoping to warm the hearts of our most senior members with a Valentine's Day theme. Lee Wolff continues to do a terrific job organizing these projects and many adults assist with the cooking and other projects. Our A2J Youth Group will be delivering these packages with four drivers at the helm.

- ◆ Our youth continue to lead us in Calls to Worship. Classes or groups should arrive 15 minutes early to warm up and practice. Here is our upcoming schedule at a glance.

Feb 3 Jr. Choir

Feb 10 Mission Sunday

Feb 17 Call to Worship Grades 7-8 and Senior Youth Choir

Feb 24 Call to Worship Grades 9-12

- ◆ Our Easter drama is in the works. Dawn Duran, Tina Harvey, and Bob Gillis will direct this year's production for older youth and adult volunteers. The production will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup> followed by our Easter luncheon and Easter Egg Hunt. Contact Dawn or Tina if interested in being in the play. Sign up sheets will be coming out soon to help with the Easter activities.

May we look forward to the season of Lent our journey with Jesus triumphant!

Love, Priscilla



### Men's Fellowship to Meet Saturday, February 2

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, February 2, at 8:30am. Breakfast will be pancakes. Cost is still \$3.00.

We will finalize plans for the Sweet Heart Dinner on February 9.



### Women's Circles

Last month we began our year-long study of the General Epistles. We discovered they are the last letters in our Bible, located just before the Book of Revelation. These are very short letters (some only one page long) written by Peter, John and Jude. While Paul's letters were written to specific churches to address particular problems, the General Epistles were letters to be read by one congregation and then passed on. In some ways these General Epistles were like our church newsletters. They were written to keep everyone in touch with what was going on. They were also written to encourage these early Christians who were just

beginning to suffer persecution. In February we will look at 1 Peter 1:1-25 and 1 John 4:7-21 as they present the image of God as Father.

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Betsy Cunius. The Sarah Circle will meet Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 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, February 14<sup>th</sup>. All women of the church are encouraged to join us for study and fellowship at the circle that best meets your time schedule. We would love to see you and you will be warmly welcomed.

## Lenten Tokens and Booklets to be Given Out in February

As always the church will give out some special tokens and spiritual helps for our Lenten Journey. This year we are giving out two items. One is a refrigerator magnet that reads “Glory in the Cross of Christ”.

The second item is for your daily walk during the 40 days of Lent. It is a booklet titled “Imitators of Christ” by Mark Zimmerman. The readings are short, but introduce spiritual thought and discipline for each day. Read these in addition to The Upper Room.

These items will be given out on February 10. We are ordering 175 of each.

## Pastors’ Sunday Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. in Cobb Lounge

Pastors Cobb and Reedell began a new Sunday Evening Bible Study on January 27<sup>th</sup> called "People of Faith: Christianity in America." As the first nation in the history of the world based on a concept of religious freedom, the United States became a place of unprecedented religious diversity and experimentation. This 6 week study examines the history of Christianity in America, from the first European Christian settlers to the many expressions

of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This series was produced with the support of a grant from the Lilly Endowment. Some of the influential Christians we will look at are: Jonathan Edwards, Harriett Beecher Stowe, Martin Luther King Jr, and Billy Graham. Come join us as we see how these Christian leaders helped shape the America we live in.



### **Worship Committee**

## Lenten Service Schedule

The Absecon/Galloway Clergy have finalized the schedule for this year’s Lenten services. Lent is a season of spiritual reflection and journeying, and we encourage everyone to attend as many services as possible:

February 20, 6:30pm	Unity Dinner	Absecon Methodist
February 27, Noon	First Lunch	Reformation Lutheran
March 6, Noon	Second Lunch	St. Eliz. Ann Seton
March 13, Noon	Third Lunch	Absecon Presbyterian
March 20, Noon	Final Lunch	St. Mark & All Saints
March 28, 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion	Absecon Presbyterian
March 29, Noon	Good Friday	St. Mark & All Saints
March 31, 7:00am	Easter Sunrise	Heritage Park

## Unity Dinner February 20, 6:30pm at Absecon Methodist Church

Lent will be here soon! The Lenten Unity Dinner will be at the Methodist Church on February 20 at 6:30pm. Cost is just \$6.00. The menu will be Roast Pork and all the trimmings from soup to dessert.

Our theme is “SNOW Nice to Meet You” – so come and enjoy!! See Joan Nale for reservations.



### Mission/Evangelism News

The Mission Committee has granted to extend Jenifer's stay in the Bakely house for another year.

We have extended our collection of health kits until March 30th. As of January 17th we have collected 36 kits. This project is done through Church World Service. Last year we collected 54 health kits.

February 17th begins One Great Hour of Sharing. Minute for Mission dates are: February 17th, March 3rd, and 17th.

Lisa Whitaker is scheduled for a Minute for Mission February 24th.

Session members have spent much time discussing church growth. We, the Mission/Evangelism Committee also have discussed this matter. As you know there was no new members' class this past Fall. Also the nursery has been empty. One question was asked: Why have some members stopped coming to church? This committee is asking the congregation for their input on helping our church grow. Our future depends on it. There is a suggestion box in the vestibule with index cards. Please give us your ideas so we can take them into consideration.

Working to serve God,  
Russ Adkisson Jr.



### From the Deacons

Deacons will be planning, organizing, and receiving our new assignments for this next year at our first meeting of 2013, Saturday, February 2, at 10am in Cobb Lounge.

We will be installing our new members Ginny Davenport and Ilsa Smith and will have our annual picture taken. We will miss and wish to thank Irene Hunter and Pat Hudak for their years of service on the board of Deacons.

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped at the funeral of Ruth Eberhard.

We look forward to working with everyone to make our church a welcome place for all.

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

### News from Our Missionaries



Greetings from Prague, Czech Republic,

I really enjoyed my brief visit to your church this past September. Thanks to the invitation from a long time seminary friend, Rev. Gerry Reedell, I was able to make a visit to the "Jersey shore". My colleague from the Evangelical Church of Czech

Brethren, Eva Benešová, and I had a great time visiting Pastor Gerry and meeting with youth and adults from your congregation. My trip back to the US last September and October was my first trip back since coming to Prague in September 2010. As a Mission Coworker with the PCUSA I have the privilege of working with our partner denomination the ECCB (Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren). I work in the Ecumenical Department and much of my work involves serving as a bridge between PCUSA and ECCB congregations. The ECCB is the largest Protestant Denomination in the Czech Republic and is a blending of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches.

I am so grateful for all of your interest and support, and if you would like to learn more about my ministry you can go to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) and click on World Mission or you can go directly to my page at: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/moritz-karen/>.

Also, please feel free to communicate with me at either of my email addresses: [Karen.Moritz@pcusa.org](mailto:Karen.Moritz@pcusa.org) or [revkarenmoritz@gmail.com](mailto:revkarenmoritz@gmail.com)

I look forward to communicating with you more in the future and getting to know you all better.

S přáním Božího požehnání,

I Greet You with God's Blessings,

Karen

Rev. Dr. Karen R Moritz  
PCUSA Mission Coworker in the ECCB Central Church office  
Ecumenical Department  
Jungmannova 9 P.O. Box 466  
CZ 111 21 Praha 1  
[Moritz@e-cirkev.cz](mailto:Moritz@e-cirkev.cz) +420 224 999 280

### **Silence is Golden**

One of the assignments for my Master's degree in Christian Formation and Discipleship was to go on a 24 hour silent retreat. We needed to go away, no phone, no computer, just our Bible and journal. Now, I'm sure some of you are chuckling at the thought of me on a 24 hour silent retreat. I had lots of naysayers thinking that there was no way I could be silent for that long! Well, guess what? I was . . . and it was a wonderful 24 hours. I went to a Franciscan retreat center in Pennsylvania where they have small, one room cottages specifically for this purpose. It was a very meaningful time of prayer and reflection. It truly is amazing how peaceful and restful your soul becomes when the constant noise we live in is cut off. Like anything in life that has value, it takes some planning and determination to make something like this happen.

Many people when I was getting ready to go said, oh, I could NEVER find time to do that. The truth is we find time to do what we deem important. Taking time away whether it is in total silence or just a break from everyday activities seems to be a lost discipline in the Christian life. The overload of information and activities has seemingly won the battle for our time. I am finding it necessary in my life to take the singer Mac Davis' advice and "stop and smell the roses along the way". One of the practical applications to this degree I am receiving is that God is challenging me personally to take time as well as to create events that help others take time. So, this year, 2013, myself along with some others are creating a spring luncheon and a fall overnight retreat. It is an intentional way of saying, yes, taking time out of our schedule to slow down

and focus on the Lord IS important. These two activities are for the ladies . . .but men, I am more than open to partner with you in creating some times too! Below are a few details for the upcoming luncheon in March and then the date and place for

the fall retreat so you can mark your calendar now and make this time away a priority.

Please consider joining us, you are welcome!

Blessings,  
Lisa



When : March 2, 2013

Time : 10am-2pm

Cost: \$10

Where: UMC Absecon Great Hall

Keynote Speaker : Lisa Whitaker

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Women's Fall Retreat November 15-17, 2013

Where: Port O Call, Ocean City, NJ



**Stewardship Committee Report**

This is the final statistical report for 2012. A complete analysis of how we did meeting the expenses in the budget is in the Annual Report. You should obtain a copy of this Report and spend some time reviewing the financial data so you have a full understanding of the Church's financial condition.

**Statistical Report for December**

Budget for 2012	\$220,771.00
Budgetary needs through December 31, 2012	\$220,771.00
Our giving through 12/31/12	\$177,751.61

Investment Income	\$ 26,292.86
Rental Income (net)	\$ 2,042.25
Total	\$206,086.72

Amount under budget \$ 14,684.28

Average weekly giving by month

	<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	November	\$3872.57	\$3220.28
June	\$3403.33	\$3301.79	December	\$3449.05	\$3525.06
					*closed 8/28

As of January 14, 2013, we have received 67 pledges totaling \$117,530. Last year at this time we received 70 pledges totaling \$124,798. Obviously some of you have not responded. God is forgiving. You still have time to submit your pledge card. There is no penalty for being late! If you misplaced the one issued to you, extras are in the Narthex. Just pick one up and return it in the Sunday offering plate.

In 2012, the total Per Capita money received from the congregation was \$4,307.00 which was an improvement compared to 2011 when you gave \$3809.00. Our total assessment in 2012 was \$10,027.00. So, you reimbursed us a little less than half of what we had to pay. We encourage you to use the envelope requesting a \$38.00 payment. If you wish to pay your per capita in installments, please do.

Gerald W. Hoenes  
Stewardship Committee Chairperson



**Thank You for January**

January saw a lot of year end reports and bookwork. A big thank you to all who wrote reports in our 56 page annual report, and to our administrative assistant, Gay Channell, for the many hours of preparation it took on top of her regular duties. Thanks also to the team who assembled and stapled them. Few appreciate the work that goes into this project.

Thanks also to the following:

1. Leo, Sandy, Melvin, Ed, Bryan, Luigi, Denise, and others for all the food service at the Spiritual Life Day Jan. 13, our Second Monday monthly lunch, and the Sunday Brunch. Great job, great food, and great cleanup job!
2. The Men's Club for organizing and carrying out the Gary Yung conference on Jan. 13.
3. Joanie and the Fellowship Committee for a great job on the John Taylor event Jan. 26.



4. Many volunteers who came out to put away Christmas decorations the first week of January. Thanks also to the AA guys who took the manger box down New Jersey Ave. and put it away behind the manse. The church really looks bare without all the decorations.
  5. Vic Werner, Jeremy Wong, the senior drama group and others who did special music and other parts of our January worship.
  6. Elaine Risley for having Tom Sooy's photograph permanently mounted and hung by the entrance to the sanctuary. Tom, we never expected you to leave us so soon.
  7. Frank Loeb for hooking up and donating a new DVD player for our church. It was used when John Taylor sang. It is being kept locked up for safe keeping.
  8. Those who made soup and helped with the soup sale on January 20.
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### **2013 Newsletter Postage Fees Due**

Postal fees for the 2013 Good News home delivery are now due. Payment of \$10.00 must be submitted to the church office by March 20. This service is provided for those who do not have internet service or can not pick up a copy in person.



### **Fellowship News**

Our first soup sale was a great success, thank you to all who made the soup, those who worked the table, and for all who purchased soup. Our profit was \$375.75. The next soup sale will be held on February 3. Anyone willing to make soup should sign up in the vestibule.

An evening with John Taylor was well attended and enjoyed by all. Mr. Taylor has been a long time

favorite of our congregation, and it is always a pleasure to be entertained by him.

Our church Lenten Lunch is scheduled for March 13. We will need approximately 10 volunteers to make sandwiches and 3 volunteers to make soup. Also, we will need help setting up, serving, and cleaning up. There will be a sign up in the vestibule. Please consider helping where you can.

Sincerely,  
Tina Brown



### **Happy Friday February 8 at 6pm**

Join us as we go back in the past with the best songs of the 50's 60's & 70's. Let's see if you can name the tune and its artist as we listen to the song. As usual bring the covered dish of your choice.

Let's rock and roll!

Vic Abelson.



### **Doug Jablonski Men's Group to Host Sweet Heart Dinner**

Bundle up your sweetheart or just come by yourself for a great evening of food and entertainment by the Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship on February 9 at 6:00pm.

Dinner will feature Filet Mignon or chicken breast, hors d'œuvres, rolls, vegetable, potato and dessert. Entertainment will be by the Forever Young Quartet and some special comedy - all for only \$12.00 per adult.

This will be fun! See Norman, Melvin, Don, the pastor, or any member of the Men's Club.

### **Lunch Bunch to Star Diner in Pomona**

Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 on February 6 to travel to the Star Diner in Pomona. Or you can meet us there at noon.



### **In the Father's House**

Ruth Eberhard – January 2

Roger Milley – January 17

Jessie Klickovich – January 18



Dear Session,

Thank you so much for the generous gift certificate. I will put it to good use, and thank you for your thoughtfulness and opportunity to serve you.

Love,  
Priscilla

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for the gift cards Russ and I received from the church. We appreciate it.

Happy New Year,  
Russ and Linda

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Church Associates,

Thank you for the holiday gift card. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

May 2013 be a blessed year for each of you.

Sincerely,  
Marge Chapman, Treasurer

\* \* \* \* \*

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all of the generous church members who used the Christmas Gift to Our Parish Associate envelope. Thank you so much for remembering me. It is a pleasure and an honor to be a part of this church.

Gerry Reedell



## Love – It's How to get Through the Winter

*“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” ~ 1 Corinthians 13:13*

It's no coincidence that Valentine's Day falls in February. The Romans hated this time of year so much they made February the shortest month on the calendar. It was a time of being indoors, cabin fever, winter illnesses, and loneliness. It's a time of year when some of you will suddenly pack up and head south for a week or two.

No wonder Valentine's Day falls in February. We don't just need romantic love. We need love in every sense of the word. We like to sing “What the world needs now...” and “Love makes the world go round...” Well, I wrote down a few ways to make the winter a great time. See if they don't make sense for you.

1. Love yourself. I was shocked when someone said to me after Gary Young's talk on diet, nutrition, etc., “I don't need anybody telling me what to eat. I'm old and not here much longer. This is too little, too late.” Sadly, some of us get fat and flabby when winter is a great time to eat right, exercise, learn a new skill, read a book, etc. But it starts with a desire to better oneself. Despair, negativism, an unwillingness to try anything new, or see life any better, says more about how we see ourselves than it does about the world. Show your self esteem by reaching higher.
2. Love God. Love is not a feeling in the Bible as much as it is an action. Lent begins February 13, Ash Wednesday. Protestants have never been into abstinence the way Roman Catholics are. We see Lent as a spiritual journey that takes effort. Accordingly, we are giving out Lenten devotionals this year titled “Imitators of Christ”. Read them along with your Upper Room. Take time for prayer and additional worship. The Lenten schedule is in your Good News. Did you know that most great Christian literature and devotionals were written during the winter? It's just naturally a time of meditation and getting back in touch with God.
3. Love the World. Today's paper is full of reports of random acts of kindness on Martin Luther King Day. 800 Stockton students did many tasks at Forsythe, Seashore and Wesley Manor, etc., including making thousands of Valentine cards to be given to residents of area nursing homes. God so loved the world that He gave His Son. What have you given to a needy world?
4. Love your Family. I was a fan of Zorro when I was a kid. Janna Beth got me 23 episodes on video tape for Christmas. For four nights we watched Zorro with Guy Williams (the original!) while wrapped in a blanket. She even put her head on my shoulder. “We were bonding”, she says. Daddy was moved. We ate ice cream. I'm sorry we've seen them all now. It is the simple acts together that make our lives worth while – and they have more opportunity to happen in the winter time.
5. Love Something New. Winter is a great time to learn how to use your iPhone, computer, etc. The world's full of minorities, people of differing life styles, new possibilities, new travel destinations, etc.

All we need to do is love more. It's what makes us human. It's what makes us Christian. It's what makes us enjoy being alive. Do it now. Spring will be here in two months.

*- Dave*

**Lay Assistants**

3 9:30  
11:00  
10 9:30  
11:00  
17 9:30  
11:15  
24 9:30  
11:00

**Head Ushers**

3 9:30 Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer  
11:00 Joanna Howell  
10 9:30 Carol & Jan Jorgensen  
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd  
17 9:30 Rita & Vic Abelson  
11:15 Joan Patky, Don Mills  
24 9:30 Irene Hunter  
11:00 Shirley Smith

**Collection (9:30)**

3 Norm Johnson, Marjorie McGuigan  
10 Joan Nale, Ginny Davenport  
17 Dirk & Desiree Williamson  
24 Roger & Jinny Wolcott

**Deacons for the Month**

9:30 Carol Jorgensen  
11:00 Mary Bew

**Acolyte (9:30)**

3  
10  
17  
24

**Nursery (9:30)**

3 Alice Malfi  
10 Fran Tanner  
17 Jennifer Platt  
24 Gloria Achamizo

**Van Drivers**

3 John Channell  
10 Barb Hughes  
17 Dirk Williamson  
24 Vic Abelson

**Refreshment Hosts**

3 Barbara Hudak  
10  
17 Join us for brunch!  
24

**Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew**

3 Set-up – Libby Little  
Cook – Ed Little  
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood  
10 Set-up – Bob Wilkenloh  
Cook – John Channell  
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport  
17 Join us for Brunch!  
24 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki  
Cook – Bryan Hawkes  
Clean-up – Olga Davies & Jean Delesantro

