

Good News

April 2013

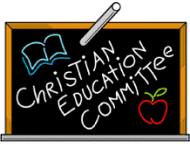
Verse of the Month: “Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.” ~ *Philippians 2:9*



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Sunday School and Related News for April

The Easter play was wonderful! Dawn Duran and Tina Harvey directed another moving production that featured many adults and teens. Who will forget Woody Duncan as Sam, Jeremy Wong as Jesus, Terri Villegas as the girlfriend, or Chris Harvey as the boss. Roger Wolcott did a great job with the props, Debbie Wong with videotaping, and Bob and Chris Gillis with graphics and sound. We had a full house for our luncheon and Easter egg hunt. Brian Hawkes and Dan Hughes did a terrific job in the kitchen with the assistance of JoAnn Weller, Cheryl Hawkes, and JoAnn Sabo. Those chicken nuggets and French fries were just right and all the side dishes were delicious. We held our Easter egg hunt inside because it was a little too chilly outside and the kids had an exciting time hunting for those eggs in the sanctuary and Sunday school classrooms. The teens did their best to hide the eggs in impossible locations, but the kids found them all! Many thanks to all who contributed their time, talent, food, and candy-filled Easter Eggs! Between the set up crew and youth group clean up, a great time was had by all. Fish banks, collected on Palm Sunday and Easter, contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing

Up Coming Events

- ◆ Many of our young people have had fantastic attendance this year and are encouraged to keep it up. Youth Recognition Day will take place on May 26th.
- ◆ We also have a great crew of young evangelists. Twelve of our regulars in the Sunday School have brought a friend at least once. Several of our regulars have brought friends many times. This is a great way to introduce new families to our church and Sunday School.
- ◆ Our grade 4-6 class will present the Call to Worship on April 21st. Please arrive 15 minutes early to prepare.
- ◆ Our third and final Family Worship Sunday will take place on April 28th. Everyone should arrive 15 minutes early to get ready for that too. Our theme involves faithful discipleship. Rob Perry will be leading special music with grades 1-6.
- ◆ Remember that we offer \$100 camp scholarships to any of our Sunday School kids who attend a Christian camp this summer. Contact the office for details. We are expecting a visit from Camp Haluwasa on May 5th.
- ◆ As the weeping cherry trees in the cemetery blossom, let us remember our beloved servants Tom Sooy and Jan Baker as a testimony to all who have served the youth in the past, present, and future of the church.
- ◆ We have been enjoying the video library given to us on behalf of Barbara Maurer. Thank you to the many people who donated TV's and DVD players. Classes are now able to enjoy the videos.
- ◆ Stay tuned for details about our many events which will take place in early spring and summer.

May we continue to grow as a family of believers and celebrate the love of Christ.

In His Service,
Priscilla

LIONS and LAMBS



SOMEBODY certainly did make the PENNIES for PINs FUNdraiser a HUGE success. Thank you to everyone for your support of such a compassionate cause.

Lions and Lambs will be joining A2J the 3rd Sunday in April for a Social event to create the THUMBODY LOVES YOU first night kits for the Atlantic City Rescue Mission . . . Perhaps we'll even be able to enjoy an encore presentation of the "Somebody" Call to Worship during services as the 2013 project comes to its conclusion (with much better signs - thanks, Roger!) . . . but there's

more! Now we direct our focus to our own Mission Team with our 2nd annual "Footprints In the Sand" walk and coin collection to support our own Mission Team, and their efforts for summer of 2013. Lions and Lambs, we'll be making and distributing the water bottles the 1st and 2nd weeks in April, respectively. So please begin putting aside any of your spare change to fill these bottles.

Next meeting for Lions and Lambs:

Sunday, April 7th, 11:00AM-12:30 PM.

Mark your calendars, and Rejoice in the Lord, for He is Good! AMEN!

In His Service, JoAnn Sabo



Senior High Youth News

Senior Youth Group is doing well. Baseball season started so our numbers have changed, but we are still a big group. I have to say THANK YOU to the teens for taking the tables down after the Easter lunch.

The dinner schedule is as follows:

April 1st.....no meeting

April 8th.....Dylan has dinner.... Terri has salad

By this time every person has brought in 1 dinner and 1 salad. At this point we will take volunteers.

Thanks,
Karen

New Members Classes Begin April 14

If our Lenten Journey has been a significant life journey for you we invite you to express your conviction by joining church.

The process is not difficult. There are three classes meeting on Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm. We will discuss our faith, church history, Presbyterian government, and the programs and character of our church here in Absecon.

We will meet in the church lounge starting April 14 and continuing April 21 and 28. Then on Tuesday, May 7, we will meet briefly with the officers who will receive you as a member.

Pastors Cobb and Reedell Begin New Course April 7

Our next Sunday night course will be a six week video course by Adam Hamilton beginning at 6:30 on April 7 in the lounge.

The description of the course reads, in part, as follows: "Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism, the temptations, and moving through his ministry to the people he loved, the healing he brought, the parables he taught, and the enemies he made. This series was produced on location in Israel.

We will follow the normal format of viewing the video and discussing it. Cost is still only \$5.00.



Men's Fellowship to Meet April 6

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will meet the first Saturday in April, April 6, at 8:30am. We will have breakfast and discuss future plans

Breakfast will be \$3.00.



Women's Circles

As we continue our study of Peter's two letters to the Christians scattered throughout the Roman Empire, we come to these words, "Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh." (I Peter 2:18) When we read these words of advice to slaves, we cringe. Why would Peter write such words? What was he thinking?

Many of these early Christians had been carried into slavery and Peter was reminding them of the pattern Jesus left for them to follow. If they had to suffer insult and injustice, they were only going through what Jesus had already gone through. "When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he

suffered, he did not threaten." (I Peter 2:23) Peter seems to be saying that when Christians follow Christ's example, even when oppressed, they bear witness to the Good News that God is in the midst of all human experiences. By their dignified response they can lead others to Christ.

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 5th in the home of Betsy Cunius. The Sarah Circle will meet in Cobb Lounge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10th. The Martha Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Carol Thomas Thursday, April 11th. All women of the church are encouraged to join us for study and fellowship at the circle that best meets your time schedule. You will be warmly welcomed.

Priscilla Submits Intention to Step Down as Christian Ed. Director

Priscilla has submitted a letter to Christian Education and Session expressing her intent to step down the end of June. The session received the letter with regrets. Priscilla has done a great job over the years, first as director of Lions and Lambs and for the last nine years as our Christian Education Director. She will be missed in this

position, but she will not be gone. She is returning to “civilian roles” in our choir, bell choir, etc. We will always love seeing you among us, Priscilla!

We thank her for giving our officers several months notice. This job description is being reevaluated to see where the greatest need of the church and youth can be addressed for a growing future. We will keep you posted.



Worship Committee

Communion schedule has been passed by Session. It is as follows: April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st, January 5, 2014, February 2nd.

We need people for the sound system and the power point. Please see me if you are interested. If you would like to become an Usher, please see Don Mills, and if you would like to serve communion, please see Ginny Davenport.

Thank you

Have a Blessed month
Karen Muldoon

Help Needed!

We are in need of volunteers to work the sound system during Sunday worship and other services such as joint ecumenical services, funerals, weddings, etc. There will be training sessions at a time to be determined. Please contact Dan Hughes or Karen Muldoon if you are interested.



Mission/Evangelism News

We have completed the collection of health kits totaling one hundred. Last year's count was fifty-four. We will do this annually January through March.

Mission

Thank you for your generous support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Mission Committee has decided to drop Blanket Sunday/Tools of Hope for this year.

March 5th session approved our church to be a host site for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. We will be hosting teams here from the end of May through August. We are looking for volunteers to help with the

hosting of these groups. There will be more information to follow. Please contact John Harvey or Russ Adkisson.

God Bless,
Russ Adkisson Jr.

Dinner Plate Donations Needed

Sister Jean's Kitchen is in need of large china dinner plates. If you have some mismatches in the back of your cupboards or packed up in the attic please consider giving them to the Kitchen. Donations can be left in the church office April 6-17. Thank you!

Does God Pay Attention When We Pray? **by Lisa Whitaker**

It was so good to have some of you join in the luncheon I spoke at in March. We had over 50 women from 7 different churches. The topic was conversations with God. I am always amazed and encouraged how God continues to remind me and teach me long after a retreat or message is spoken. It is almost like He underlines or takes a yellow highlighter to what He has already shown me - just to make sure I get it!

Last week I was in the midst of training 60 staff as they prepare to lead 9 different Discipleship Training Schools beginning in April. On Wednesday morning I had planned to lead us in a time of intercessory prayer. Intercession is when we take time to listen to what is on God's heart and we intercede - stand in the gap - on behalf of whatever God puts on our heart. Often times in our schools we intercede for countries, for situations that are taking place, for our families, etc. When I am training our staff, I try to be very intentional not just with the content, but also the way I teach, how I teach, the methods used etc. So, for this prayer time, I wanted it to be an example of praying for something that we really knew very little about or that we were not directly involved with - something that would allow us to truly listen to God and then pray what comes to mind. As I prepared, I asked the Lord what to pray for and almost immediately, I felt like He said - The Pope! Now, I had not had a television on in over a week so I was a bit out of touch with the conclave and the process that was going on in Rome. I knew it was happening, but did not know if the white smoke had appeared. So, I quickly Googled "the pope" and found out that they had not yet chosen anyone. I thought, this is a great topic - history in the making - and we can pray for that process. It was around 9am in our staff meeting when I began to announce our topic for prayer and immediately one of the staff held up their phone and said, "Hey, they have seen white smoke in Rome - they have chosen a pope but have not announced his name." I continued to explain how we were going to pray and then another staff member said, "Here it is - this is his name - Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio. I was blown away. God had put on my heart to pray for the pope. When I was planning, there was no one chosen yet, so I assumed God wanted us to pray for the process . . . then down to the minute that we were praying in Hawaii, 11 hours away in Rome an announcement was made and we were able to pray for the new pope by name. My heart leapt as I realized once again how very relevant and active in everyday life God desires to be. I am also amazed as I heard the prayers that were prayed that morning and then have read articles about Pope Francis; it is like God was answering our prayers at the exact time we were praying. Without knowing anything about him, we prayed as if we already knew him. We truly were praying what was on God's heart - it was so faith-building.

Does God pay attention when we pray? Yes, He does.

I guess the real question is, do we take time to ask Him what to pray for or do we pray only for what is on *our* heart. Maybe our prayer lives would be much more exciting and relevant if we all took time to listen to what is on God's heart and then join Him in standing in the gap for people and situations that He has on His heart. I know for me, I am inspired anew to ask and listen - we never know what historical event we can be a part of as we join in conversations with God.

Much Love,
Lisa



Stewardship Committee Report

Statistical information about the state of the West Jersey Presbytery has just been released. It should be of interest to all of us as it gives a picture of how South Jersey is doing regarding our denomination and how we are doing in comparison.

There are 61 churches in the West Jersey Presbytery; this is three fewer than in last year's report. Three church congregations decided to disband. Total membership of the 61 churches was 11,430; this compares to 11,954 last year. The average membership of a church is 187. Twenty five of the 61 churches have a congregation less than 100. With our membership of 261, we are considered above average in size.

Financially, our status within the Presbytery improved when compared to last year. The average giving per member per week in our church was \$15.62. Last year this average was 13.64, so giving went up significantly. The average giving per member, per week for all 61 churches in our Presbytery was \$20.70 last year, compared to our \$15.62. Our increase in giving went up much greater than the average for the 61 church. Fifteen of the 61 churches had a average giving per member per week lower than us. This compares to six less than us last year. According to this analysis, we are doing significantly better than last year financially, and thus now have a new goal to exceed when we measure our giving this year in next year's report.

Statistical Report for February

Budget for 2013	\$225,721.00
Budgetary needs through February 24, 2013	\$ 34,726.32
Our giving through 2/24/13	\$ 30,448.20
Investment Income	\$ 3,324.80
Rental Income (net)	\$ 1,943.95
Total	\$ 35,716.95
Amount <u>over</u> budget	\$ 990.63

Average weekly giving by month

	2013	2012
January	\$4080.67	\$3257.33
February	\$3531.38	\$3384.29

Gerald W. Hoenes
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

2nd Annual Golf Event May 19

May 19th is the Golf/Silent Auction Fundraiser. It's just around the corner. The Golf Committee will have a table set up every Sunday. Come check it out. We will showcase some of the donated items plus answer any questions you may have. For \$100.00 you can advertise a business or simply say that your family supports the FoodBank and the Salvation Army. If you are not a golfer, come join us for the Italian buffet and auction. Want to know if you'll like the game? Sign up for the hour golf clinic that will be offered before dinner.

We will be needing people to sit at designated holes for 2-4 hrs. Please help us spread the word. We have been blessed that we have not had to pay for anything to date. So far it has all been donated, even the registration forms.

This is going to be a great event. Thank you for your support!

Karen Muldoon
Golf Committee



March Thank Yous

March was a big month because of Easter coming early this year. It may have seemed rushed, but we did very well. Thanks to the following:

- Priscilla and helpers for a great Easter egg hunt and party on St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- Tina, Dawn, and our drama team for their Easter production on March 17. It was a blessing.

- Our Men's Fellowship for again sponsoring our Good Friday service on March 29.
- Vic Werner for singing at our special services. Great job!
- Ginny Davenport for decorating for St. Patrick's Day and providing the balloons. Happy birthday, Bill!
- Woody Duncan and his handy friends for fixing the ramp door and putting up lighting on our Nancy Soy banners. Looks great!
- Vic Werner for replacing the toilet in the men's room and for fixing our dehumidifier.

News from the Board of Trustees

Church Work Day Saturday, April 13, at 9:00am

Bring your rakes, gloves, Windex, and a mind to work for our spring cleanup. There is a lot to take care of! Kris Jenoriki is in charge.



Fellowship Committee

On March 13th, we hosted the Lenten Lunch. This event was well attended by our own members as well as members from the other churches in Absecon. Thank you to everyone that either made sandwiches, desserts, or the soup. Everything was absolutely delicious! Also, a huge thank you to all that came out to help that day.

I am pleased to announce that Cheryl Hawkes has stepped in as the new breakfast coordinator. Please support Cheryl in helping out whenever needed.

Our Spring Concert is fast approaching. This congregational event featuring George Wesner will take place at the church on April 20th. There will be two dinner seatings, one at 4:45PM and the other at 5:45PM. Dinner will consist of ham and all the

trimmings made by our own Nancy Sooy. The concert will begin promptly at 7PM. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are going fast. Don't miss this opportunity to see a spectacular performance direct from Radio City Music Hall. See Joanie Hoenes today to reserve a seat.

June 7th we will be having our annual Strawberry Festival. We will need people to make pound cakes and provide ice cream. We will have more info available on this next month.

Refreshment hour needs YOU! We are in need of people to sign up to bring refreshments each week. Even if you only sign up for every other month, then we should be good with about a half dozen to a dozen people. We have people to serve at

refreshment hour; we just need the items to serve. Refreshment hour is a good time for friendship and fellowship and I believe that many of us would miss it if it didn't take place.

Our next fellowship meeting will take place at the church at 7PM on Tuesday May 28th.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



Evergreens Wednesday, April 24th, 12 Noon

B-I-N-G-O! Come join the Evergreens as we enjoy playing BINGO and win some wonderful prizes. We are asking the Evergreens to provide the prizes. Everyone has some knick knack or something else in their house that they no longer use. Please bring it and it could be a treasured prize in our BINGO games. Do not wrap what you bring. Don't forget to bring your sandwich. Dessert and a beverage will be served. If you have never attended an Evergreens meeting, come and join us for a fun afternoon.

Please mark Wednesday, May 22" on your calendar. That is the date of the Evergreens Spring Luncheon at the Smithville Inn.

April 20 Congregational Event Update

Your Fellowship Committee always wants our church families and their friends to have reserved seats and preferred dinner time selections before the event is opened to all on March 31. Please see Joanie ASAP to avoid disappointment.

This will be the last congregational event for quite a few months, and we are honored to welcome back George Wesner who continues to present inspiring Christian programs to thousands after the passing of his dear friend, Fred Davies, several years ago.

Your Fellowship Committee, Dawn Duran, Chair



Happy Friday April 12 at 6:00pm

Join us Friday, April 12th, at 6pm for a Happy Time answering True and False Questions. Everyone will have their own answer sheet. Those with high scores will be awarded small prizes. Let's test your knowledge of everyday questions. As usual, bring the dish of your choice.

TRUE OR FALSE? This is Vic Abelson

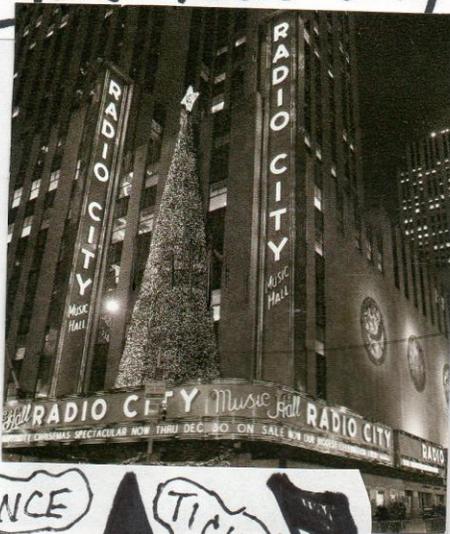
Lunch Bunch to Allen's Clam Bar Wednesday, April 3

Meet at the church at 11:30 on Wednesday, April 3, for lunch at Allen's Clam Bar!

SPRING's ^{SAT-} APRIL 20th 2013
 Congregational Event---

Featuring **GEORGE WESNER**
is coming fast!!!
in concert

DIRECT FROM Radio City Music Hall



ADVANCE
 (SORRY)
 NO Refunds
 TICKETS
 ONLY
 call JOANIE 641.1839
 All SEATS Reserved

principal organist
Radio City
 George Wesner has played more than 4,000 shows for over 21 million people at the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show starring the world-famous Rockettes. While at Radio City, he has appeared with the American Symphony Orchestra; and world premiere film events for Disney; Universal Studios; 20th Century Fox and PBS TV.

GEORGE WESNER is the principal organist at Radio City Music Hall in New York City where he presides over the console of the largest Wurlitzer pipe organ. He has appeared with the American Symphony Orchestra and has been the organist for the Grammy Awards, Life Magazine's 50th Anniversary, Entertainment Tonight and Wheel of Fortune at Radio City. He has served as guest conductor of the Tampa Symphony Orchestra and has been on the organ faculty of the King's College in New York.

TICKETS: Avail. Mar. 17 \$15Ad \$5ch (incl. dinner + concert) MENU TBD
 2 Seatings (time TBD) CONCERT at 7p

Congratulation, Kassie!

Our very own Kassie Little is the state winner of the Daughter of American Revolution's 2012 essay contest. The theme was "Forgotten Patriots Who Supported the American Struggle for Independence." Kassie chose Prudence Wright, of Pepperell, N.H., who dressed as a man and fought the loyalist Tories — including her own brothers — and British soldiers who came through town.

Kassie will present her essay to the New Jersey Daughters of the American Revolution convention April 19 in Princeton. Her essay is below.

We're all so proud of you, Kassie, and wish you all the best in Princeton!

Forgotten Patriots Who Supported the American Struggle for Independence

Essay Written by Katharine Little

You are crouched behind the reeds on a cool spring's night, knuckles white from clenching your gun in your sweaty fist. The knot in your stomach grows tighter with every second. You're scared, but for liberty, your life is a small price to pay. As you remember what you are fighting for, your heart swells with pride. But wait, what's that? The clip clop of horse's hooves alerts your company to the approaching enemy, the British. You feel the people around you tense. It's time to go.

If you can imagine this, you have an idea about what it might have been like to be Prudence Cummings Wright on the night she and her minute women ambushed British spies on their way through the women's town of Pepperell, Massachusetts.

On November 26, 1740, Prudence Cummings was born in Groton, Massachusetts, yet because of a realignment of the states in 1741, Prudence and her family inhabited Hollis, a town in New Hampshire. By the time she was 21, in 1762, she had married David Wright of Woburn, and together they moved to Pepperell, where Prudence raised seven children, a big enough feat on its own, but also where Prudence made history.

It was said that the town of Pepperell had not a Tori within its borders, and the people liked it that way. The minutemen of the area were famous for being the fastest and most prepared soldiers in the vicinity.

So on the day of April 19, 1775, when Edmund Bancroft rode into Pepperell with news that the British were on the march, the men were ready. Quicker than a spooked horse, the minutemen were on the trail of the enemy soldiers. When word came back to Pepperell of the battles at Lexington, the women recognized that their husbands and brothers were in open rebellion with the British Crown, yet they were proud. The men were fighting for a worthy cause, and the ladies decided to help from outside their typical roles in the home.

It is not clear how the women of Pepperell, Hollis, and Groton knew to ambush the British that night at Jewett's Bridge, but one account has it that Prudence herself supplied the information.

When Prudence was visiting her mother in her hometown of Hollis, she overheard two Loyalists conversing about their plans to bring messages to the British and meet up with other British troops in order to lead them through Groton. One loyalist just so happened to be her brother, Samuel Cummings, and the other, his friend, Leonard Whiting. Prudence found out that they planned to pass right by Pepperell! She left her mother's home at the earliest possible moment in order not to arouse her brother's suspicions, and hastened back to Pepperell to plan what the people could do.

Another story relates how Prude used a compilation of rumors to make an educated guess at where the troops would be.

A few days after the battles at Lexington and Concord, thirty to forty women gathered together at Jewett's bridge in Pepperell. They dressed as men, perhaps to look more threatening to their foe, but the real reason is not known. While their husbands were away at Lexington and Concord, they took their husband's guns, pitchforks, and anything else that could possibly be used as a weapon and assembled under their chosen Captain, none other than Prudence Wright herself. Her lieutenant was Sarah Shattuck, or Mrs. Job Shattuck of

Groton. Under the leadership of these two brave women, the group called themselves Mrs. David Wright's Guard.

For hours, the women lay in wait for the troops to pass through. When someone finally approached, they sprang from their hiding places, and Prudence, as the leader, ordered them to halt. Yet the party was not the large group the women had been expecting. Coming down the road were two mounted men, armed with revolvers. When the messengers tried to run, the women grabbed onto their horses' reigns, preventing the spies from fleeing. One man, Samuel's friend Leonard Whiting took out his gun and was about to shoot when the other rider, Prudence's own brother Samuel made him lower it, saying, "I recognize Prude's voice and she would wade through blood for the rebel cause" They forced the spies to dismount and searched them, soon finding the papers the men were on their way to deliver to the opposition. "The Guard" marched the men to Groton and deposited them into the hands of the Committee of Safety, where they were arrested. Records show that four men were charged with this deed of treachery, Thomas and Samuel Cummings, Prudence's brothers, plus Leonard and Benjamin Whiting. Leonard was detained for a longer period of time on different charges, but the other three men were released soon after. Their liberty was on one condition though; they had to leave the colony. It was said that Samuel was never seen again.

Prudence's bravery will never be forgotten, nor will those in her guard's, for their act of valor helped the cause. They stepped in when their men were away, and were as much patriots as the continental soldiers themselves. During a time when women were thought of as weak individuals whose places were in the home, they showed that their patriotic spirit was equal to that of any man. In my opinion, Prudence Cummings Wright was a hero.

Bibliography

- http://www.pepperellcoveredbridge.org/?page_id=22
- http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/score_lessons/women_american_revolution/wright2.html
- http://www.shoppepperell.com/Prudence_Wright2.pdf



Please extend our sincere thanks to those responsible for the delicious food. We thoroughly enjoyed every bite!

Gratefully, Stan & Jan Wiley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I would like to thank the Deacons for delivering a beef and rice casserole to me when I was recuperating from my cataract surgery. It was very thoughtful.

Love, Ilsa

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A special thank you to the Deacons for the delicious goodie bag. It was very much appreciated.

Happy Easter, Marge & Frank Loeb

Church Received Framed Enlargement of 1900 Copper Plate

Jim Davidson and Felix Anador who live in the McMullin House (home of our first full time pastor, Charles McMullin) have enlarged an image of our church from 1900 and had it mounted and framed.

It now hangs just inside the door as you enter the vestibule. It is a beautiful job, and it also adds to the historical character of our church.

Thank you, Jim and Felix, for contributing this beautiful gift to add to the character of our church.



EASTER

**It's nice to be here on Easter day to tell this story that is true
The story of Jesus who died on the cross for me and you
When Jesus walked through towns He had so many who followed in His steps
There were those full of joy and those who had wept.**

**Jesus had helped so many at the touch of His hand
He healed so many as He walked through the land
The disciples had followed Him to learn more of what they can say
To teach everyone about His Father to help each one to pray.**

**So many did not believe that Jesus was sent here from up above
To let everyone know there is a Heaven that is all full of love
A place where there's peace with no more pain or sorrow
It will always be ready for you today or tomorrow.**

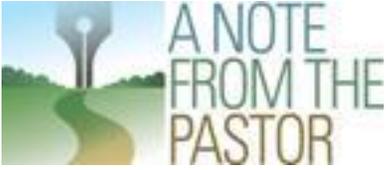
**There were some who did not know who Jesus was or why He was here
If you believe in Jesus you know for you he'll always be there
You can talk to Him if you're feeling happy or feeling sad
He will always be the best friend that you ever had.**

**It does not have to be Easter or Christmas or daytime or night
If Jesus is in your heart then you will feel that everything will be all right
There are so many stories of Jesus that are told around the world everyday
As long as you believe in Him, He is here to stay**

**He was nailed on the cross with thorns on His head
And we believe these were the last words that He said
There were so many, Father, who don't believe in you
Forgive them Father for they do not know what they do.**

3-17-2013

**By
Dee and Jack Heil**



No Bedtime for Francis – Time for Daylight

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink. And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you in, or naked and gave you clothing?’...And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” ~ Matthew 25:37b-38, 40

When my children were young one of their favorite books was “Bedtime for Francis”, the story of a little badger who had to be coaxed into bed to go to sleep. Sadly, I have tended to greet the name “Francis” with a yawn ever since. Even though the original Francis (of Assisi) was a great saint, he has been thought of in much the same way. Until the new Argentinean Pope took his name and became Francis I, the first Pope to use that name.

The more I look at the life of Francis the more I realize that this man was not only a man for his time, but a man for our time as well. Just a few things that impress me from this saint of the 12th century:

1. Francis was born into wealth. A child of privilege, it was assumed he would continue the life of nobility and run the family business. He came to realize there is more joy and fulfillment in service than consumerism and ease. We need to hear that.
2. In a life changing moment, Francis dismounted his horse and embraced a leper beside the road, something even the poor would never do. Leprosy was a sign of “uncleanliness” even in the Middle Ages. Such an act to accept a societal reject was politically incorrect, to say the least. When Francis wrapped the man in his cloak he said he looked into the face not of a leper, but Jesus. Isn’t it interesting in an age where there is so much pressure to get rid of the Rescue Mission and Sister Jean’s, or to judge people because of life style choices or family background that St. Francis did not find Christ until he moved beyond that type of judgmentalism and began to embrace everybody. Christ comes to us in unexpected places and people.
3. St. Francis is best known for his love of nature (see the painting above the piano in the lounge). He was a fifteenth century environmentalist who realized his relationship with nature reflected his relationship with God as well. He makes us revisit questions of recycling, global warming, and personal issues about our carbon footprint and treatment of all the living organisms around us.
4. Lastly, Francis was a spiritual person. His writings reveal a man of prayer, daily quiet time, spiritual sensitivity, and love of the Lord’s Supper. He achieved real peace. In a day of anxiety, stress, and negative thinking, we need to hear Francis anew.

On March 18 Pope Francis urged the world to defend the poor and protect the environment.

As we embrace our Savior’s resurrection we need to hear this message and live by it. In doing so we will see His resurrection presence in the faces of the poor and in the world He died to redeem.

- Dave

Lay Assistants

- 7 9:30 Russ Adkisson
11:00 Vic Abelson
- 14 9:30 Ginni Stadler
11:00 Melvin Washington
- 21 9:30
11:00
- 28 9:30 Grades 7-8, 9-12
11:00 Gerry Reedell

Head Ushers

- 7 9:30
11:00
- 14 9:30
11:00
- 21 9:30
11:00
- 28 9:30
Assistants Grade 3-4
11:00

Collection (9:30)

- 7
- 14
- 21
- 28 Grade 1-2

Deacons for the Month

- 9:30 Ilsa Smith
- 11:00 Mary Bew

Acolyte (9:30)

- 7
- 14
- 21
- 28

Nursery (9:30)

- 7 Fran Tanner
- 14 10:00 Jennifer Platt
- 21 Gloria Achamizo
- 28 Alice Malfi

Van Drivers

- 7 John Channell
- 14 Barb Hughes
- 21 Dirk Williamson
- 28 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

- 7
- 14
- 21 Join us for Brunch!
- 28

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 7 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood
- 14 Set-up – Bob Wilkenloh
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
- 21 No Breakfast – Come for Brunch!
- 28 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

