

Good News

June 2013

Verse of the Month: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” ~ Ephesians 2: 8-9*



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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Summer Schedule Begins June 23

Our last Sunday of double services will be on June 16, Father's Day. That will be our last breakfast and the last Sunday the choir will sing until after Labor Day.

From June 23 until September 1 (Labor Day weekend) there will be one service at 10:00am with Special Music. We will serve refreshments outside, weather permitting. Instead of Sunday School children in grades PreK-7 will go to age appropriate 40 Minute Club. The office may have reduced hours, and things like cleaning service will be reduced according to need.

Enjoy your summer. Come to church when you can.

Our Online Calendar has Updated Information!



Be sure to visit [our website](#) calendar for up to date information! This is a great tool if you are planning an event or hoping to attend one. (Use the Agenda tab at the top right for easier viewing.)

Also, most events off church premises have a link to Google maps. Click on the event (like Lunch Bunch on June 5) then click "map" for the location and directions.



News from the Christian Education Committee

As the Chair of the Christian Education Committee, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with a team of dedicated volunteers and employees who make our Youth Groups and Sunday School possible. Many of these individuals are back year after year, wearing many hats as needed to provide these important programs for the youth of our congregation that will, in time, become the leaders of this congregation. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Christian Education Committee and the entire congregation, to recognize the efforts of all of the leaders, assistants, teachers, aides, volunteers, sponsors, and helpers of every kind who have given on themselves to make these programs possible this year.

Among those who have done some of the heaviest lifting are Karen Muldoon and Priscilla Schultheis, both of whom are stepping down from their leadership positions and moving on to other

challenges and opportunities within the church. Karen has led our Senior Youth group (along with Jack Cobb) for many years, and has formed a special and lasting bond with the young adults that she has worked with. Priscilla has led the Sunday School program for many years, doing the behind-the-scenes planning and organization work in the summer when nobody else is thinking about the following school year, and serving as the ringmaster, cheerleader, and driving force behind a range of events throughout the school year. Both will be missed in their roles, but we offer them their thanks for a job well done and for going far above and beyond the call of duty helping to guide our youth on their own personal walk with Jesus, and wish them the best in any new roles they may pursue within our congregation.

In His Service,
Scott Sabo, Christian Education Chair

Sunday School and Related News for June

May was a fun and busy month. We enjoyed a visit from Camp Haluwasa on May 5th and made wonderful Mother's Day gifts on May 12th. We also had a great time together at our final Family Worship Sunday of the year on April 28th. Youth Recognition Sunday took place on May 19th followed by an ice cream sundae Sunday, a treat on the house from one of our members.

Up Coming Events

- ◆ Our summer program and **40 Minute Club** will begin on **June 23rd**. Like last year, we will have two groups that leave the sanctuary following the junior sermon: the first group will be for grades PreK-3 and the second group will be for grades 4-7. (Teens who have completed 8th grade or higher are expected to stay for worship.
- ◆ Parents of kids in grades K-7 are asked to take a turn or two running the 40 Minute Club program this summer. A lesson plan and craft are provided. Parents and other adult volunteers can sign up to be a teacher or an aide. Pairs of friends work well together. Parents who sign up as teachers can pick the craft for their week.
- ◆ We will play some **Memorial Day Games** at Pastor Cobb's **Memorial Day Picnic** which will take place at the manse on Sunday, May 26th at noon. Among other activities there will be some old-fashioned fun which will include a hoola hoop contest, watermelon seed spitting contest, water balloon toss, closest to the pin frog toss, and fullest pitcher water challenge. Were you looking for some ways to cool off and have fun? Hopefully you'll join us for the picnic.
- ◆ **June 8th is our canoe trip.** We'll be canoeing from the Wading Pines Campground located in the Chatsworth area of NJ about 30 minutes north up the parkway. The cost for a canoe is \$40 which will normally hold 2 people. A third person may be added to a canoe for the additional charge of \$5. Bring a picnic lunch, towel, sunscreen, and bug spray. We'll leave the church at 10 am and get to the site around 10:30. Hopefully we'll be in the water canoeing by 11am. We'll stop for a picnic lunch along the way and be done around 2 pm. Every one should be back home by 3 pm. The church van will drive up and back. Usually we have a bit of a caravan going.
- ◆ **June 9th is Teacher Recognition Sunday.** We certainly appreciate the commitment our teachers, aides, substitutes, and sponsors have provided for our kids. It is always an honor to recognize the people who donate their time in such a meaningful way. Please say a special thank you for teachers: Dawn Duran, Karen Little, Tina Harvey, Diane Lee, JoAnn Sabo, Bob Gillis, and Anna Mae Werner. Our teacher's aides have been very supportive this year and we'd like to thank Jacqueline Bhatti, Kathy Moore, Fran Tanner, Dawn Houseworth, Jason Imlay, Jennifer Platt, Sheila Mazzatta, Tina Brown, Barbara Hughes, Dawn Lewis, Barbara Hudak, and Janna Beth Cobb, and Naida Burgess. We also are grateful to our many sponsors who support our classes both spiritually and financially. Our program is terrific because of them. We will have certificates and gifts for our teachers, aides, substitutes, and sponsors at the 9:30 service on June 9th.
- ◆ **June 16th is Father's Day** and the last Sunday of regular Sunday School until the fall. We will be making special crafts and cards for our dads. No two gifts will be alike. This is also Graduate Sunday and all graduates from 8th grade, high school, post high school, and college programs will be recognized.

It was another wonderful year and I am filled with so many emotions as the year and my role as director come to a close. What a great group of adults and kids God has brought together! It has been a pleasure to grow

with you and to serve you this past year and the many years before. I will think of you often and smile from a thousand memories that come to mind. Thank you, all, for your support of the Sunday School and youth programs over all these years. I've enjoyed my role as Christian Ed Resource Director immensely and trust that our new Christian Ed Coordinator and Youth Worship Leader will continue to lead the youth and families in our church with exciting programs that develop our faith and community with Jesus and each other. I'll always lend a helping hand wherever I can, and I know you will too. Thank you, everyone! Thank you, Jesus.

Love, Priscilla



Lions and Lambs

The Good News is we made 114 First Night kits for the Atlantic City Rescue Mission with all of the proceeds from our Pennies for Pins Fund-raiser, and now we have a case of water bottle banks filled with coins and dollar bills to count for our own church's summer mission project. Thanks to all for your continued support in teaching our young budding members how Christ works through us when we serve others.

from Lions and Lambs and A2J can gather in Madden Hall on a few Wednesday evenings this summer to make sandwiches for Sister Jean's Kitchen, and have a little slumber party fun before we go home to sleep in our own beds. Please come hungry - we'd like to truly appreciate a PB & J of our own. Shortly thereafter, we'll pray for those who receive our sandwiches as their only meals of the weekend. Exact dates to be announced. Keep an eye out for the postcard announcement.

THIS SUMMER . . .

John Harvey's visit to talk to us about Sister Jean's has resonated into this wonderful idea: Project Peanut Butter and Jammies. Youth group members

Happy Summer :)

Gratefully,
JoAnn Sabo

A₂J Pocono Cabin Trip June 25-27

A₂J has scheduled a tentative trip to Pastor Cobb's cabin in the Poconos for June 25-27. Stay tuned for more information!



Director of Music

Worship Committee

Summer is fast approaching and I have contacted the following Musicians to present special music for our 10am summer services: (I am still working out some of the dates.)

- Richard Garrick - Trumpet (July 7)
- Lee Little - Flute (July 14)
- James Harris - Violin (July)
- Jeremy Wong - Clarinet (June 23 ?)
- Vic Werner - Soloist (July & August)
- Quartet (Choir Members) (June 30)

- The Holland Family (some Sunday in August when Pastor and I are on vacation)
- Dot Ryan will be at the organ in August while I'm on Vacation.

Harold Hawkes



Fathers to be Honored on Father's Day, June 16

The first 60 fathers in worship on June 16 will receive a Father's Day gift of appreciation. We love you, Dad!

Bud Burgess to be Confirmed in June

Bud Burgess has completed the requirements for confirmation and will be presented to session on June 4 to be questioned and received as a member. He will appear before the congregation at a time to be determined.

Bud has been faithful in this process and will be a great member of our church!



Meet Our New Members

On May 12 we welcomed three new members into our church. Their names and information are below, and their photographs are on the bulletin board in the hall. Be sure to say "Hello" and introduce yourself!

Don K. & Lucy Croneberger
 PO Box 285
 Cologne, NJ 08213
 609/804-0065

James Morris, Jr (Patti's husband)
 11 Shore Rd, Apt 2-D
 Somers Point, NJ 08244
 609/335-1724



Mission/Evangelism News

PDA mission teams will be coming to the area this summer. The first team is scheduled for June 6th through June 9th. They are from Ashburn Presbyterian Church of Ashburn, VA. Two other teams have scheduled time here during July and August. Last month the West Jersey Presbytery delivered 20 self inflating air mattresses/beds. We also picked up 2 portable shower/changing rooms from the PDA. We

will provide 2 potluck dinners for them. Bring a dish and come out to meet them.

The picnic/Fun Day is on for June 22nd [rain date June 29th]. This event is open to the community free of charge. Pony rides, bounce house and games. Hamburgers, hotdogs and pulled pork sandwiches will be served. We are advertising this in the Current, Smithville paper and distributing door hangers. We ask that all of you be involved. Volunteers for prep., food service, games and

cleanup or just bring a friend. The purpose of this event is to let the people in the community know who we are and grow our membership. We need the support of all committees and the congregation. Let's fill our pews and our classrooms. Call Kirk Conover, Russ Adkisson or Vic Abelson and let us know what you would like to do.

We also are looking for 1 or 2 people to organize a mission trip. It may be here or up the road. Sandy left damage all the way up the coast. Call me.

Just one more thing. If you have a push lawn mower you don't use anymore we could use it at the Bakely house.

God bless,
Russ Adkisson Jr.

WHERE ARE THE PRAYER SHAWL/BLANKET REQUEST FORMS?????

I can not tell you how many times I am repeatedly asked this question.

I have put them in the pew racks only to find most are gone in a matter of minutes, (or so it seems), only not to find any upstairs in the office.

 **Please, Please**, do not use them for scratch paper, bookmarks or for children to use for drawing on the back.

You can access one on the church's website : abseconpresby.org, or check in the rack in the Narthex, or in the pew racks in the Choir Loft.

If that fails, please use a sheet of paper and place your name and phone number, date of request and the name of the person to whom it is for, Adult, Teen, Male, Female with a brief reason for the request, so we can specifically pray and prepare the gift for delivery accordingly, place in the collection plate or drop off in the office, if Gay is not there, place it on her desk and she will place it in our mail box.

We keep records and if we find that the person has already received a shawl or blanket we will advise you. We try to comply in a timely fashion.

The First Saturday of the Month meetings will not resume now until September 7, 2013 at 9:30 AM in the chapel. All ladies are welcome, also gentlemen, if you are so inclined. We will however still be filling request as they are received.

At this writing we have received and filled 38 requests for 2013.

We thank you for your loving support and donations to help fulfill this wonderful ministry God has called us to do in His name.

In His Service.
Loretta Metz,

Uganda Auction at Ocean Heights Church June 8

The Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a major fundraiser for Mustard Seed Academy in Lukaya, Uganda on June 8 from 6-8pm. This year's funds raised will build a kitchen for the orphanage. Items to be auctioned are original artwork, Desserts of the Month for 6 months, Super Secret Supper Club for 2, Chiropractic services, local dining gift certificates, golf foursomes at Linwood CC, hand sewn quilts, wine baskets, and more. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Mustard Seed Academy.

Our church has supported Mustard Seed since inception, and we hope to have a good representation there.



Stewardship Committee Report

The statistical summary for April shows that our church finances continue in the black with giving and investment income on par with last year at this time. The difference when comparing year to year is that rental income was a plus \$6663.95 this year compared to a loss of \$1,430.49 last year. So, rather than being under budget by \$9,843.07 as we were last year at this time, we are over budget by \$834.88! Two negative items of note, however, are that our average weekly giving for the past two months has been less than the same months last year and there was one more week in the same period last year. This latter factor will catch up with us eventually.

Let us hope that our good fortune continues for the rest of the year.

Statistical Report for April

Budget for 2013	\$225,721.00
Budgetary needs through April 28,2013	\$ 73,793.43
Our giving through 4/28/13	\$ 60,512.56
Investment Income	\$ 7,451.80
Rental Income (net)	\$ 6,663.95
Total	\$ 74,628.31
Amount <u>over</u> budget	\$ 834.88

Average weekly giving by month

	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>
January	\$4080.67	\$3257.33
February	\$3531.38	\$3384.29
March	\$3056.94	\$3326.92
April	\$2757.42	\$3527.09

Gerald W. Hoenes
Stewardship Committee Chairperson



May Thank Yous

May was a month with special activities that go with spring time. Special thanks to the following:

1. Karen, Nancy, the Golf Committee, and dozens of volunteers for our second successful golf tournament on May 19. Thanks to God that it didn't rain during the tournament.
2. Thanks to the Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship, cooks, Kassie Little, Vic and others for our Memorial picnic on May 26. Great job!
3. Elaine and Kris for the flowers planted around the front of the church. Looks professional, ladies.
4. Priscilla for a great job on our Youth Recognition Sunday events May 19. We will miss having you do that. Also, thanks for the activities on May 26.
5. Karen for a great job with the Senior Youth and a very successful first year with 2nd Monday Monthly Lunch.
6. Vic & Rita for a great year with Happy Friday. You did make us happy.
7. Dick Wood for driving the van to Sister Jean's while the pastor was away.



Fellowship Committee

We will be holding our Annual Strawberry Festival on June 14th from 6-8PM (cost \$5). Please join us for fellowship, entertainment, and delicious strawberry shortcakes. The entertainment will be provided by John Channell and his friends. *Sign up in the vestibule if you are able to help with donations of shortcakes, pound cakes, ice cream or whipped toppings!*

This summer I am hoping to bring back our annual church picnic at the lake. The details are still in the works so keep an eye out for any information as it becomes available.

Our annual yard is planned for Sept 27th.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson

Lunch Bunch to Pirate's Den June 5

The van will leave at 11:30 to travel to Brigantine where we will enjoy lunch at the Pirate's Den. Meet at the church at 11:30 or at the restaurant at noon.



Remember, Deadlines are Important!

“Good Morning” (Sunday bulletin announcements) – Noon Tuesday

“The Presby Post” (Friday email) – Noon Wednesday

“Good News” (monthly newsletter) – 9:00am on the 20th of the month

(Next issue covers July AND August)

Articles are to be **in writing** and submitted to the office (email preferred) by the due date. Please keep in mind it may be necessary to edit due to space limitations in our printed publications.

A NOTE OF



I sure would like to thank everyone who has sent me get well cards this last month after breaking 2 bones in my right wrist. The cast will come off on June 29th. I can't write so have to hunt and peck with my left hand to type. The deacons have supplied me with lots of soups and casseroles. I sure appreciate their thoughtfulness and concern. We sure have a great church family. I miss doing my jobs at church but they are being done by others until I can do them again.

Carol Thomas

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the soups, casseroles and other foods you have been delivering to me. They were, and still are, a wonderful blessing during this very difficult time of my life.

May God bless you for all your love and caring.

In Christ's love,
Marguerite Downer

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The Bad News and the Good News

“Behold, I am making all things new.” ~ Revelation 21:5

One of the presenters in Nashville where I spent my study leave May 13-17 was David Lose, a homiletics professor and church growth expert from a Lutheran seminary in Minneapolis whose books fascinate me. (I just used one to teach different views of atonement to my Monday Bible study.) David’s lecture was about future church trends, and he spoke about contemporary music, interactive preaching, changing liturgy, and the effect of social media, advertising and cultural shifts in America. It was overwhelming, since his lecture included movie clips, advertising clips, the significance of logos, economic uncertainty, and the loss of faith in our institutions.

All 2,000 of us sat anxiously awaiting for him to tell us how to navigate the church through tough times. Surely he knew. He said, “I have bad news and good news.”

“The bad news is there is no playbook. There are no new rules that work for everybody. Sorry.” he said. We were disappointed.

“Now for the good news. There is no playbook. You will have to vision with your officers to find what works better for you in worship, program, mission, education, and fellowship. It’s different for everybody depending on the make up of your congregation. The reason this is good news is that when people say ‘You’re not following the playbook. We’ve always done it this way.’ you can say ‘There is no longer a playbook. What we used to do has little relevance in this environment except to say the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over expecting different results.’ It’s good news because now you can do many things, try many things, and reinvent worship, programs and mission, Christian education, etc. So try it. Find what works for you. Don’t let old thinking keep you from the new things God is calling you to do.”

Friends, that’s not just where denominations are, it’s where we are. We need to reinvent ourselves. We need to give ourselves permission to try new things and to fail once in a while. And the process will take years.

That’s not bad news. God is always working to display His Spirit in new ways. This is the season of Pentecost. Let the wind blow and the fire burn.

I can’t wait.

- Dave

Lay Assistants

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

Head Ushers

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

Collection

2
9
16
23
30

Deacons for the Month

1st Svc Jo-ann Weller
2nd Svc Mary Bew

Acolyte

2
9
16
23
30

Nursery

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

Van Drivers

2 John Channell
9 Barb Hughes
16 Tina Brown
23 Vic Abelson
30 Ed Little

Refreshment Hosts

2
9
16
23
30

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

2 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood
9 Set-up – Bob Wilkenloh
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
16 Set-up –
Cook –
Clean-up –

