

Good News

October 2013

Verse of the Month: *“Have I not commended you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” ~ Joshua 1:9*



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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World Communion Sunday to be Observed Oct. 6 - 9:30 & 11:00

Every year we gather at our Lord’s Table with brothers and sisters from around the world. This is always done on the first Sunday in October, and is a celebration of solidarity with all of Christ’s Church.

Last year many congregations in North Jersey were in temporary quarters because their buildings were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. This year many congregations are in temporary quarters because of floods, forest fires, and other disasters.

We also want to remember the persecuted churches of Egypt, the Middle East, and behind the iron and bamboo curtains. This is truly a difficult time to be a believer in those areas.

So let us celebrate our Christian Unity with all believers on October 6, and be in prayer for fellow Christians all year. Together, we find God’s peace, presence, and strength at His Table.

Thanks for a Great 65th Birthday

The cake was beautiful and delicious, the balloons were clever, the singing after the benediction was a surprise, the banners and dozens of hand made birthday cards were touching, and your many well wishes truly filled my heart to overflowing - Jan’s, too.

65 is a special year. All of you who said “Welcome to Medicare” reminded me of that. I guess I was hoping it would pass without too much fanfare, but you managed to highlight it enough to make it special without making me feel old. (Although some of your cards were over the top!)

Jan and I love you all. Thanks for the many special ways you love us back.

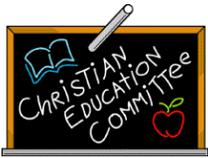
When God does eventually call us into something different it will be really hard.

Your Loving Pastor,
Dave



A Prayer for Our Pastors

God bless our faithful pastors--they dedicate us, baptize us, marry us, bury us-- and hold a special place in our hearts. We honor them, the sheep-watchers of the flock of God, and ask God's blessing and anointing on their lives and ministry. *Many thanks to Pastors Cobb and Reedell.*



Sunday School and Related News for October

Rally Day was a huge success. Our theme was Jesus is the light with a little help from Bruce Springsteen. The congregation helped us and we all made a joyful noise. Roger Wolcott did a great job designing our Jesus board. Thanks to Joanne Sabo for her inspiration, Alice Smith for her amazing talents inscribing names in the six Bibles we presented. All the teachers, aides, and kids came out and Linda Gillis stepped forward once again to assist in the Sunday School program, Thank you Linda! We have a great team. Our sponsors have been very generous in their support of our program. Last but not least, thank you to Ed Little and John Harvey for the wonderful breakfast they prepared for our kids.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ This year we are going to try something new, we are going to have a **TRUNK OR TREAT**. This event is scheduled for Sunday, October 27th from 4:00 pm- 6:00 pm. Congregation members will have the chance to participate by decorating their cars and giving out candies, kids will get goodies; there will be refreshments and a bonfire. Details will be announced in the weekly bulletins. Parents and other interested adults can sign up to participate. Come out and have a wonderful time.
- ◆ Our **Christmas presentation** and the Birthday party for Jesus will be held on December 8, 2013. This year our children will be caroling to the congregation along with the reading of some inspirational scripture. Children will begin practicing these songs during the latter part of the Sunday School class time, more details to follow.
- ◆ Our first **Family Worship Sunday** will take place on October 27th. All classes participate in the service and should arrive 15 minutes to meet as classes for a final preparation. Preschoolers and kindergarteners will sing two songs for our call to worship. Grade 1-2 will be greeters and hand out the bulletins. Grade 3-4 will do the offering. Grade 5-6 will read the responsive reading. Grades 1-6 will do special music with Priscilla. Grades 7-8 will lead the Scripture reading. Grades 9-12 will lead the Jr. Sermon and present a drama of some sort. This will be a wonderful day!
- ◆ Our first Fellowship Sunday will be on October 6th; this is an opportunity for all the children to come together for some creativity, praising and fun. Grades Pre K-6 will be reporting to Madden Hall once dismissed from service. This month's lesson will be on the reason we observe communion and the children will be having some fall fun.
- ◆ The Sunday School is looking to put together a CROP Walk team. If you or your child is interested please see myself or Linda for a sign up form.
- ◆ All children who signed up for drama, singing or choir chimes will be contacted by Anna Mae Werner for practice schedules.

I look forward to all our fall events. Stay tuned for the announcements.

In his Service,
Tina



Lions and Lambs

Lion & Lambs are looking forward to another fantastic year of fellowship, loaded with "fun-draising" for other ministries, service, compassion for others, and the underlying theme of Freedom to worship our Lord in the USA - the way our Founding Father's intended! Our first event, The Freedom Hallelujah Hayride, has been scheduled for Sunday, October 6th, from 11:30 - 1:30 PM at Shady Brook Farms, just off of Route 30 in Egg Harbor City. We'll be out in the community enjoying fellowship and the freedom to thank the Lord for our lunch, praise Him with song in the hay, and sing God Bless America. Patriotic pumpkin decoration and the building of a patriotic themed scarecrow, also included. Sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board. In God We Trust. Amen!

In His Service,
JoAnn Sabo

Women's Circles



I hope most of us enjoyed the summer months and took the opportunity to meet Karen Moritz, our Presbyterian co-worker in the

Czech Republic. Karen has been the bridge between the Czech Brethren and our PC(USA) for the past 3 years and has been renewed for another 3 years. I hope we can work it out so she can visit us again.

Now it is time to continue our study of the General Epistles. 2 Peter, chapter 5, especially concerns Christian leaders. Few passages show more clearly the importance of the elders in the early church. It is to the elders that Peter especially writes, and he does not hesitate to call himself a fellow elder. He charges the elders with shepherding God's flock

under their care. They should willingly carry out their responsibilities - not in an authoritative manner but by leading the way as an example.

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 4th at the home of Betsy Cunius. The Sarah Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 9th in Cobb Lounge. The Martha Circle will meet at the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 10th.

All women of the church are encouraged to join us for study and fellowship at the circle that best meets your time schedule. If you have never been to a circle gathering please come and try it out. You will be warmly welcomed.

Pastors Cobb & Reedell to Offer Book Study Beginning 6:00pm Oct. 6

Once again this fall our pastors will offer a Sunday Night course in the lounge at 6:00pm. Only this course will not offer a video accompaniment. It will be a more thoughtful course on the nature of God titled "What We Talk About When We Talk About God" by Pastor Rob Bell.

We will read a chapter each week and discuss it. Cost is \$12.00 for the book, and you need to sign up and get the book **before** the course begins.

See the pastors. Checks should be made payable to Absecon Presbyterian Church. Join us!

New Members Class

Taking the next step

Church Membership Classes Begin October 13

Joining church is not difficult, and it's a great way to affirm your faith, make new friends, gain a feeling of belonging to church, and to be a greater part of everything that happens here.

There will be three classes, lead by Pastors Cobb and Reedell, on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm (unless the group wants to meet at another time, but we will begin at 4:00 on Oct. 13 due to the CROP Walk. Pastor will be walking until 3:00).

The classes are on faith, church history and government, and the life and programs of our church here in Absecon. You will find it interesting. On Tuesday night, Nov. 5, you will be received by the officers as a member. So come and join us! It may be one of the best things you will ever do.



From Our Worship & Program Director

It is such a blessing to be a member of Absecon Presbyterian Church! I am so excited to serve the Lord as the Worship and Program Director. I am looking forward to seeing God use the talents and abilities of our young people and adults through music and drama in our worship services. Rally Day was wonderful thanks to Tina, Linda, Joanne and the Sunday School teachers. Our children were very enthusiastic about signing up for Choir Chimes, Singing and Drama. I have set aside Sunday mornings as rehearsal time, 9am sharp in the upstairs classroom. I have begun contacting those who signed up and if there are other young people who would like to participate in any of these areas, please let me know.

Also, I know that there are a few adults in our congregation with abilities in singing and drama, I will be in touch with you soon, but there may be others who would like to serve in this capacity who are hiding from me - I want to hear from you! Let me know if you play an instrument, sing solos, or interested in skits.

May we encourage our youth and one another as we serve and worship together using the gifts and abilities that He has given to us.

"O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation, Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms, for the Lord is a great God..." Psalm 95:1-3

Anna Mae Werner, Worship and Program Director

Benjamin Saindon to be Baptized Oct. 20

Benjamin Saindon, son of Cynthia (nee Hoenes) and Mark Saindon will be baptized in our church during the 9:30 service on October 20. We are honored to host this joyous event on behalf of the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church.

Joanie's sister, Lois Hainselin, will be singing as part of the service that morning. Her husband Mike will play the accompaniment on the piano. Lois and Mike also painted the Jesus mural in Madden Hall.



Mission Committee Selling 25% off Boscov's Shopping Passes - \$5.00 for Oct. 22

Family Promise of Atlantic County is forming with leadership from the Absecon United Methodist Church.

They have opened a bank account and now have four churches (not us yet) who are willing to host parents and children every three months in the church. There is much to be done, such as securing a "home base" building where residents can go during the day with a social worker. Our Mission Committee has agreed to participate in this first fundraiser which will be a 25% off shopping pass

for Boscov's on October 22. There will be face painting, refreshments and prizes. Passes will go on sale September 29, and your entire donation benefits Family Promise. The chairperson is Barbara Sabath from AUMC.

Family Promise is a church program that houses homeless families (parents and children) in churches on a rotating basis until permanent housing is secured. Churches are used for a week every 13 weeks, so 13 churches will be needed.

CROP Walk to be held October 13

Once again this year the CROP Walk will leave Heritage Park at 1:30 on Sunday, Oct. 13, for about an hour hike (depending on how fast you walk) around Absecon and returning to the park when completed.

This program benefits the most needy people in the world, and 25% of the money is returned to our local Food Bank to help feeding programs like Sister Jean's and the Rescue Mission.

See Greg Hamaty for a sponsor form or call the office. We need hikers. We need sponsors!

News from the Deacons

October 2013

Ahhh the cooler weather is finally here and our Autumn activities swirl around like the leaves. Deacons will once again need your help with our Harvest Home donations to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Starting October 20, we will be collecting non-perishable food and personal items (we will have a list of what is most needed). Look for our table (and a large box for gently used jackets and coats) in the vestibule for your donations.

Deacons wish to thank everyone for keeping us supplied with peanut butter and jam for sandwiches for Sister Jean's kitchen. Also, we are so grateful for your generous donations on Communion Sundays. Thank you! Thank you!

The next Deacons meeting will be October 19 at 10 am in Cobb Lounge where we will be planning our Autumn and Winter activities.

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

Missionary Update

Thank you so much for a great time! I had so much fun visiting everyone at Absecon Presbyterian Church during September. I want to particularly thank Pastor Gerry for her incredibly generous hospitality. Although I have lived in New Jersey a couple of times in my life I had never had the chance to get to know South NJ so well. On Wednesday and Thursday I was able to visit 3 of the Presbyterian Women's Circles and tell them about my ministry in the Czech Republic. I know one of the circles changed their meeting date and time in order to host me, so thank you. On Sunday I was able to preach at both services and share in your wonderful brunch. Thank you to Dave for sharing his pulpit with me. I really had a great time with everyone. It was also fun to meet Gay in person; we have been in email contact for a while.

However, lest you think my time was only spent "working" I want you all to know that I had a great time seeing a lot of South New Jersey. Pastor Gerry and I spent some time in Ocean City walking the

Board Walk. Love that Manco & Manco Pizza! Also had fun fighting off the seagulls who were convinced that they wanted some of my ice cream. On Friday we were able to spend the day in Cape May. We had a wonderful time seeing the town from a horse drawn carriage. Of course I must also mention that Oliver and I also had a great time and now we are fast friends.

An important part of my ministry is telling people in the US about my service in the Czech Republic and about the important work and witness of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. Thank you for supporting my ministry and for making some of my interpretation time so much fun. I look forward to our deepening relationship.

Děkuju mockrat,
With Many Thanks,
Karen



Stewardship Committee Report

As we enter the final three months of 2013, our financial condition is ok when compared to the same time last year even though we are under budget. Income kept up during the summer thanks to you maintaining your pledges. Also, at this time last year we had an additional week of income due to the calendar. Any income to the General Fund from the FUNdraising Committee is not included in the statistics below, but will be a part of the General Fund come the Annual Report in January.

Statistical report for August

Budget for 2013	\$225,721.00
Budgetary needs through August 25, 2013	\$147,586.86
Our giving through 8/25/13	\$116,861.12
Investment Income	\$ 16,450.00
Rental Income (net without the \$18,000 expense)	\$ 10,992.81
Amount <u>under</u> budget (without considering \$18,000 expense)	\$ - 2735.25
Amount <u>under</u> budget (with \$18,000 expense included)	\$ -20,735.25

Average weekly giving by month

	2013	2012		2013	2012
January	\$4080.67	\$3257.33	July	\$2934.00	\$3085.94
February	\$3531.38	\$3384.29	August	\$2620.09	\$2851.41
March	\$3056.94	\$3326.92			
April	\$2757.42	\$3527.09			
May	\$3299.46	\$3271.90			
June	\$2686.87	\$3403.33			

Gerald W. Hoenes
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

September Thank You's

September is a “start up” month for all programs, so we thank everyone who helped in so many ways to get us up and running:

1. Tina Harvey has been in the church several nights per week to put up bulletin board displays, clean out closets, etc. You are off to a great start, Tina. Special thanks to JoAnn, Linda, Priscilla, and Tina’s kids for all their help.
2. Anna Mae is organizing choir chimes, calls to worship, children’s sermons, and special music. We will hear more in October. She did our children’s sermon on September 22.
3. Dawn Duran has been covering for Kendal since Aiden was born. The senior youth are off and running! They had their first meeting with Jack leading on September 16. Dawn made lasagna.
4. Vic Werner has been doing special music nearly every Sunday. Thanks, Vic, for handling some of our technical difficulties, too.
5. Elaine Risley has been taking care of our flower beds out front all summer. We will hate to see them go, Elaine. She also helped coordinate the historical tours of our church on September 14. Four groups came through.
6. Betsy Eberhard and the pastor have done some weeding. Looks good.
7. Rev. Gerry for coordinating and hosting our missionary, Karen Moritz, the week of Sept. 9-15. Gerry took her to Ocean City and Cape May plus made arrangements for her to speak five times. Great job, Gerry. (Now get over your cold.)
8. Jan Jorgensen fixed the light on the sign out front, fixed a door, took out the a/c unit in one of the rooms, and kept the place running smoothly.
9. Dawn Duran and the youth for a great job on the first brunch. It went well. Ed Little, the omelets were great, and Bryan Hawkes, thanks for coming in to cook when Steve Irish’s mom had to go to the hospital that day. There was a lot of special help and “specialty dishes” brought in by many of you.

10. Special events have been great. The Men's Fellowship hosted a Labor Day picnic on a very hot and humid September 1 and also sponsored a trip to the Landis Theater on Sept. 20. The FUNdraising Committee has sold nearly all their tickets to Sight and Sound on October 14. That message on the Legion sign really brought in a lot of phone calls!
11. Kirk Conover for painting the soffits on the Leek house and Helping with the Power Point operations on Sunday mornings.
12. Nick Hughes for painting the Tree of Life at the bottom of the stair case as you enter the lower level of the Christian Education building. Looks great, Nick!

Helpers Needed:

Many of the jobs that were in last month's Good News with "help needed" are still in need. Please see program leaders if you can help.

But there are a couple of areas that are in crisis, so if you can help, call the office.

1. The sound system needs somebody to tend it. On September 8 the system started getting massive feedback in the middle of the second service. Vic Werner finally turned it off. Clearly there needs to be a monthly rotation of trained people to handle this situation and to turn off microphones that are not being used. Call the office to schedule training.
2. We have lost some of our Sister Jean's helpers, and only three people are going; one of them is Tina Brown who returns to work in October. We need half a dozen volunteers to serve. The work is not hard. We set up plates of food that are served by others. We leave at noon on the second and third Thursdays of the month. We return before 2:30. See the pastor or Shirley Smith. You can do this!

From the Trustees



Work Day to begin 9:00am Saturday, Oct. 12

Get your rakes, gloves, and Windex and join us on Saturday morning, Oct. 12. We wash windows, put away screens, rake and fertilize the yard, wash blackboards, weed flower beds, trim bushes, clean the refrigerator, etc.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you want to reserve a special job for yourself. If you have painting skills, or are willing to go on the roof to clean gutters, we need to do that, too.

See Kris Jenoriki for more specifics!

Fellowship Committee



September was a busy month as we fell back into our fall schedules. First was Breakfast which started back on Sept 9th. Then came Happy Friday on Sept 13th where we had to "Beat the Clock". We also had our first brunch of the year on Sept 15th. I would like to thank Cheryl Hawkes for taking over breakfast this year and thank you to Rita and Vic Abelson for continuing with Happy Friday. Also much thanks to the many hands that prepared the food for our first brunch and thanks to the junior and senior youth groups for serving and helping to clean up.

Our next Happy Friday is scheduled for Oct 11th, and Brunch Sunday will be held on Oct 20th. The cost for brunch is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Breakfast is on every Sunday, except the third Sunday of the month, at 8:45AM for the bargain price of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. The 2nd Monday Monthly Luncheons will resume in November. This is due, in part, to our bus trip to see Noah at the Sight and Sound Theater on Oct 14th. There are still a few tickets left and we would love to fill up the second bus, see myself or Scott Sabo for tickets.

The next big event, at the church, is our Applefest on October 25th. The time will be from 5PM

Men's Fellowship to Meet Oct. 5 at 8:30am

The next meeting of the Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship is at 8:30am on Saturday, Oct. 5. We will plan our Thanksgiving Dinner event and also some singing. We will be doing music in church on October 13, Columbus weekend.

Breakfast will be eggs. Cost is \$3.00. Bring a friend.

Evergreens – October 23 at Noon

Our guest this month is Frank Amabile who will be sharing some of his interesting stories from his days in law enforcement.

to 7:30PM and the cost is \$5 for adults \$3 for children. The price includes your entertainment, which will be provided by John Channel and friends, a hotdog, sauerkraut, an apple dessert, and your drink. Additional hotdogs will be available for sale at \$1 a piece. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule if you would like to donate a baked "apple" good, ice cream, or cool whip. Please have all donated items in the kitchen by 4PM on the 25th of Oct. I thank you in advance for your generosity.

Mark your calendars to save the date of Dec 21st. The Holland Family will be performing a Christmas concert for your listening pleasure. Admission is free but please remember to bring a love offering.

As always, we are in need of people to sign up for refreshment hour. Ideally there should be two people each week. Please check the board in the vestibule for a date that's convenient for you and sign up. Everyone is welcome to join us in Madden Hall between services on the first, second, fourth, and fifth (when it applies) Sundays for refreshments and good fellowship.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson

Frank joined the Philadelphia Police Department in 1960. He served the city for over 26 years and would retire in 1986 with the rank of inspector. During his time in the department he was assigned to the Detective Division and investigated or

supervised cases ranging from the simplest of crimes to Homicides. Frank acquired the reputation of an outstanding investigator of rape cases.

While in the Detective Division he was assigned to the Intelligence Division after being promoted to sergeant. He had the pleasure of providing security for presidents and princesses, most notably Princess Grace Kelly of Monaco.

He was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to West Detective Division, known to the department as Fort Apache because of the level of crimes and violence. He investigated too many rape cases but was very successful in making arrests of the rapists and obtaining convictions and long jail terms.

After being promoted to captain he was assigned to Northwest Detective Division and had the largest number of detectives ever assigned to a detective unit, (120). The first female detectives were assigned to his command.

Frank was promoted to Inspector and assigned to the South Police Division and had five hundred officers in his command. He remained at this position until he resigned in 1986.

He retired from Philadelphia to take the position of Chief of Police in Lowermoreland Police department and remained in that position for over 12 years. He finally retired in 2000.

Frank completed his education by attending Temple University obtaining an Associate Degree in criminal justice. He enrolled in the Criminal Justice courses at Saint Joseph's University and received his Bachelor's Degree and went on to receive a Masters Degree in Administration in Public Safety at St. Joseph.

Please plan to attend and don't forget to bring your sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be served.

Lunch Bunch to East Bay Crab & Grill October 2

The van will leave at 11:30 on Wednesday, Oct. 2, to travel to East Bay Crab & Grill on the Black Horse Pike in Egg Harbor Twp.

Ride the van or join us there at Noon.



Mark your calendars - - - NOW! for

**Saturday, December 21
7:00 pm**

**The Holland Family's
Christmas Concert!**

(for all ages - - -) Love Offering

No tickets necessary
(Reserved seats for *handicapped, only*)

No dinner beforehand – Details in Nov.'s Good News

(Planned by your Fellowship Committee)

Men's Group to Host Thanksgiving Dinner and Event 6:00pm Nov. 23

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will host a Thanksgiving dinner with entertainment on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 6:00pm as a benevolence cause.

The menu and program are still to be determined, but you can mark your calendar for this special Thanksgiving celebration. A good time will be had by all.

In Our Father's House



Ethel Scardilli, September 18

Sympathy

Rev. Dr. Richard E. Sigler, August 28

Some of you remember Rev. Richard Sigler who preached our Stewardship Campaign back in the '90s, preached for the pastor on vacation, and did two weddings here.

He was also the father of Alice Malfi, an elder and Worship Chair at the time. She was with her father when he died.

Richard's life was truly outstanding. He earned a doctorate at McCormick Seminary, was named the Distinguished Alumnus at Pittsburg Seminary in 2008, was Executive Presbyter at Kiskiminetas Presbytery for 13 years, moderator of the Synod of the Trinity, and was on the music faculty of Blain Union School District!

Richard served ten churches as interim pastor, and served in dozens of denominational and community organizations. He loved justice causes, and drove the food truck for the civil rights marches in Selma, Alabama. He chaired the World Council of Churches program that makes loans to projects in developing countries.

Richard's funeral in September had a long procession of denominational leaders, church and organization leaders, politicians, and hundreds who came to pay their respects. Drew Malfi said, "It looks like they came to install the Pope!"

Alice, your father's legacy is truly remarkable. We were blessed to be one of the 50 churches where he led the Consecration Sunday program.

A NOTE OF



Dear Deacons,

I was so happy to see Gerry come for a visit.

"Guess what" she brought me some of your wonderful chicken soup, which I appreciated so much.

Many thanks for your kindness, Essie Newell

* * * * *

Dear Mission Committee & Friends at Absecon,

This card is way overdue but our thanks and appreciation are very fresh in our minds.

Thank you for your hospitality and generosity during our stay in July. You certainly know how to serve Christ by serving others! Your church is beautiful; your people so welcoming and loving; your food delicious!

Thank you once again!

May God continue to bless you as you continue to serve Him!

The United Presbyterian Church at Whitinsville, Mission Team

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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.)

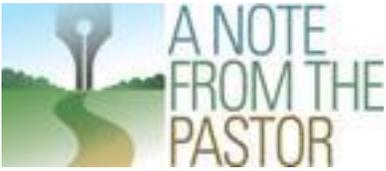
Also, most events off church premises have a link to Google maps. Click on the event (like Lunch Bunch on October 2) then click “map” for the location and directions.



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

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.



Lessons from the Costa Concordia

“I am giving you these instructions...so that by following them you may fight the good fight, having faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, some people have suffered shipwreck in the faith.” ~ 1 Timothy 1:18-19

Some of you know I own a 19’ Bayliner boat which I keep docked on Lake Wallenpaupack in the Poconos. Soon I need to be up there to pull it out, clean it out, power wash it, take it to the marina for winterizing, and then cover it up for the winter after putting chemicals in it to keep the chipmunks and wildlife out.

I always dread having to do all that until I take that last boat ride around the lake. There are always a few boats with a list, some with torn covers and a couple on the beach in a lot worse shape than mine. I wonder if the owners know or will be able to salvage what is left. The cost of neglect is very high.

Last week the biggest salvage operation in maritime history was accomplished when the Costa Concordia was lifted off the rocks and placed on an underwater platform at a cost of 800 million dollars. The 18 month preparation reminds us of a few spiritual as well as practical things we all need to know:

1. Without a good pilot at the helm you’re in big trouble.

A fully equipped ship with 4200 wealthy passengers and staff was taken down because the captain was having dinner with his girlfriend. Francesco Schettino is on trial for many charges, including involuntary manslaughter. The wrong pilot is a disaster waiting. “Jesus, Savior, pilot me, over life’s tempestuous seas.”

2. God needs us upright.

From the beginning the goal was to get the ship upright. They couldn’t search for the remaining bodies, stabilize, or move it until the ship was upright. The same is true spiritually – “Lord...who shall abide in Thy tabernacle?...He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.” Psalm 15:1-2

If you want to be in God’s presence, straighten out your act. God can’t use us when there is unconfessed sin in our lives. God does use the upright.

3. Unconfessed sin makes matters worse over time.

Over two million dollars of Chinese porcelain on display was lost because it was under water too long. Mechanicals, marble, stainless steel counters, etc. are millions more that could have been salvaged if retrieved at once. Time and sea water reduced it to rubble.

We all tend to think that we can wait to get in God’s will, wait to get rid of gossip, fat, bad habits, etc. Sadly, time works against us “Now is the acceptable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2

4. Grace means there is always something to salvage.

The ship will not be sunk or abandoned. Salvagers are already assessing the hundreds of millions that can be recycled and reformed into something new and even better. Someday you may ride in a car or ship with metal from the Costa Concordia. And it will be in a new and improved form. The promise at the end of Revelation is “Behold, I make all things new.” No matter how worthless you think you are, God will remake you better than you were. We are always salvageable. That is grace!

I’m glad I’ll be getting my boat out in time. My job now is to stay spiritually fit, upright, and open to God’s grace. That can be harder. Really.

- Dave

Lay Assistants

- 6 9:30 Russ Adkisson
11:00 Vic Abelson
13 9:30
11:00 Ginni Stadler
20 9:30 Rev. Gerry Reedell
11:15
27 9:30 Kirk Conover
11:00

Head Ushers

- 6 9:30 David & Naida Burgess
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro
13 9:30 Elaine Riskey, Carol Thomas
11:00 Joanna Howell, Cheryl Hawkes
20 9:30 Dee & Jack Heil
11:15 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
27 9:30 Bob & Barbara Hudak
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro

Collection

- 6 Sam & Bud Burgess
13 Bob Wilkenloh, Edith Budd
20 Vic & Rita Abelson
27 Roy Birkbeck, Joan Nale

Deacons for the Month

- 1st Svc Jinny Wolcott
2nd Svc Mary Bew

Acolyte

- 6 Kassie Little
13 Justin Hughes
20 Bobby Hudak
27 Chris Harvey

Nursery

- 6 Gloria Achamizo
13 Alice Malfi
20 Fran Tanner
27 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

- 6 John Channell
13 Barb Hughes
20 Tina Brown
27 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

- 6
13
20
27

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 6 Set-up –
Cook –
Clean-up –
13 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
20 Join us for Brunch!
Set-up – Youth Group
Clean-up – Church Members
27 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro



United Methodist Church at Absecon
4th Annual Women's Retreat
Coffee Conversations and Communion WITH GOD

Keynote Speakers: Lisa Whitaker and Cindy Hunt

When

Friday, Nov. 15th
Saturday, Nov. 16th
Sunday, Nov. 17th

Where

Port-O-Call
1510 Boardwalk
Ocean City, NJ
www.portocallhotel.com

Costs

Double Room* - \$188 per person Triple Room* - \$164 per person
Saturday Retreat - \$49 per person (supplies & dinner included)
Payment Options available - \$20 deposit due with registration

Reservation deadline: Sun., Nov. 3rd

* All rooms have 2 DOUBLE beds, a refrigerator, and a Keurig

Detach and return form to The United Methodist Church at Absecon,
Attn: UMW, 100 Pitney Rd., Absecon, NJ 08201
Contacts: Sue Reitmeyer (652-1390 or sjreitmeyer@verizon.net)
Barbara Sabath (646-3675 or sabathsabby@gmail.com)

Make checks payable to Absecon UMW

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Double Room-\$188 per person** My Roommate is _____

Triple Room-\$164 per person** My Roommates are _____

**Includes 2 breakfast buffets, 1 sit-down dinner, room, tax, gratuity & materials.