

November 2013

Good News

Verse of the Month: *“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” ~ Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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Sunday School And Related News For November

We have begun rehearsals for our Christmas presentation, we held our Trunk or Treat on Oct. 27th and the first Fellowship Sunday was a great success! The kids played Candy Corn Bingo, baked cookies and enjoyed sharing music and crafting.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ On November 24th our Sunday School will be coming together to celebrate Thanksgiving. The children will be taking time to remember all the things we are Thankful to God for.
- ◆ We will once again complete mission shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. **These shoe boxes are due on or before November 17th**. We will deliver them to the drop off center on that date. For your convenience shoe boxes have already been wrapped and will be in Madden Hall for the taking. Hopefully, you will be able to contribute this year to bless a child in a 3rd world country.
- ◆ We are hoping to be passing out quarter books soon for our **Advent Mission Project** which will go to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Save those quarters. It's amazing how much they add up.
- ◆ **Save the date!** Our **Christmas presentation** and **Birthday Party for Jesus** will take place on **December 8th**. Bring hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, for Sr. Jean's people. Lions and Lambs will have a cupcake fund raiser as well for a dollar.

May the joy of the Advent season bless you this year.

In His Service,
Tina



Lions And Lambs

Lions and Lambs are off to a Patriotic and an endearing start. The Freedom Hallelujah Hay ride provided us with the opportunity to get comfortable with public praise by gathering for prayer, singing a song of praise in the hay and sharing a sincere emblem of "God Bless America" while on the hay ride. We concluded our time together with the assembling of our scarecrow, "Hal", who will be making an appearance at the Trunk or Treat event.

By popular demand, we also gathered a 2nd time in October for a social event to acknowledge that boys and girls tend to have different interests. While building fellowship during creative activities, we encouraged the children to praise one another, and not themselves. (Proverbs 27:2)

In November, we're looking forward to learning a little about our Christian American History, as well as having our 2nd annual Turkey Feather fund-raiser to benefit Sister Jean's Kitchen.

There's also a plan for members of our youth group to join one, two or all three of the "CARolling" events on Friday evenings in December - a gift to be treasured by many, including the Almighty. "Fa-la-la-la-la"!!!

In His Service,
JoAnn Sabo

Addicted₂Jesus (A₂J)

It's hard to believe that most of fall is over. A₂J was very busy the past two months. A₂J youth have worked brunch Sunday's, participated in the Hallelujah Hayride, walked in the CROP Walk, had Bible study lessons and now are all members of the uga bugga club.

The A₂J November schedule promises to keep the youth just as busy. Youth continue with service

projects during the month including Road Clean Up on Pitney Road, creating a Thanksgiving Food Basket for a needy family and continue with Bible lessons.

In His Service,
Linda Gillis

Senior High Youth Group

The youth group took a trip to play miniature golf at Haunted Golf in Ocean City. A good time was had by everyone who went.

Jack and I would like to thank Dawn Duran for chaperoning youth group during the months of September and October.

Kendal and Jack Cobb



Christian Readers Book Club

Please join the Christian Readers Book Club on Wednesday, November 20th, at 6:30 p.m. We are reviewing the book Cross Roads by Wm. Paul Young. Anthony Spencer is a very egotistical self-made business success at the peak of his career when he has a cerebral hemorrhage. This leaves him in a surreal world that mirrors dimensions of his earthly life, from the beautiful to the corrupt. He is able to "see" through the literal eyes of others, but is "blind" to the consequences of hiding his personal agenda and loss that emerges to war against the processes of healing and trust. There are two copies of the book in the library system.



Women's Circles

"My little children, I am writing these things to you, so that you may not sin." (I John 2:1) When John wrote these words in his first epistle, he was a very old man. This letter was sent as a pastoral letter to several Gentile congregations. John calls them "little children" in a warm, fatherly way. He has spent almost all of his life in ministry, and many of his readers were indeed his spiritual children.

The **Ruth Circle** will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 1st, at the home of Betsy Cunius. The **Sarah Circle** will meet in Cobb Lounge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 13th. The **Martha Circle** will meet at the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, November 14th.

All women of the church are encouraged to join us for study and fellowship at the circle that best meets your time schedule. Please come and join us. You will be warmly welcomed.



We have been busy getting ready for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. November will bring a focus on stewardship. A group of adults will perform a skit with an emphasis on tithing. A children's sermon will also teach about the importance of tithing. Scott Sabo and I have been sharing the responsibility of our children's sermon, and that has been a blessing.

It is encouraging to see our youth willing to volunteer in Minute for Missions, CROP Walk,

Children's Sermons and Call to Worship. Our young people who play an instrument or sing are being encouraged to prepare a call to worship. They will be plugged in when they have a piece ready; thank you for encouraging our youth to participate in these areas of worship. I will continue to reach out to those who sing and/or play instruments, but if you have a child in your home that is ready, please contact me.

I will assist Tina Harvey, Linda Gillis and Joanne Sabo with the Christmas program and caroling that they have been diligently preparing.

"Sing for joy in the Lord, O you righteous ones; praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; sing praise to Him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy." Psalm 33:1-3

Anna Mae Werner
Worship and Program Director

Rev. Jen Fox To Speak And Lead Worship On Nov. 3

Our pastor will be on vacation the first week of November, and Rev. Jen Fox, the former pastor of the Hammonton Presbyterian Church, will lead worship and communion at both services.

Jen is currently seeking an advanced degree in conflict management counseling. She still resides in Hammonton and had served the Hammonton congregation for 10 years until earlier this year when she resigned to pursue full time academic work.

Jen, it will be a great pleasure to have you with us.



Community Thanksgiving Service To Be Held At St. Mark And All Saints

Once again the Absecon/Galloway clergy are hosting a community Thanksgiving service the night before Thanksgiving (Wed., Nov. 27) at 7:00pm. Rev. M. Mantelle Bradley will host this event and Pastor Heather Sugden will speak. Our pastor and others will participate in the service. The Episcopal church will provide special music and a time of refreshment in the church hall following the service.

Come and be a part of our community of churches as we give thanks together for God's many gifts.



The Mission Committee designated a five hundred dollar contribution to Karen Moritz [Presbyterian World Mission] to help with travel while in the United States. Karen does her missionary work in the Czech Republic.

A five hundred dollar contribution was given to Jesus Care Children Ministries.

Lions and Lambs collected \$425.00 in the water bottles which is being donated to the Food Bank. During our October meeting we worked on our 2014 budget and this year's Christmas Eve offering. It will go to November's session meeting for approval.

With your generous contributions we will continue to do God's work and help those in need.

Thank you for your support.

God bless,
Russ Adkisson Jr.

Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship To Host Thanksgiving Benefit Saturday, Nov. 23

The Doug Jablonski Men's Group will host a very special benefit for Sister Jean's Kitchen on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 6:00pm. The meal will consist of pork chops prepared by Melvin and Leo, sweet potatoes, fried apple, squash, etc. Dessert will be a Ferd Cake. Entertainment will be by the famous Boardwalk Chorus.

The cost is \$15pp, but this evening will be a cut above many and all profit will go to Sister Jean's Kitchen. Baskets will be on the tables if you would like to make an additional gift. Sister Jean's is really suffering financially, so we are glad to help.

Tickets will go on sale the first week of November. See the office or any member of the Men's Fellowship. We must have a final count by Nov. 20.

Angel Tree



Just to alert you, we will once again have our tree up on December 1st with the tags on it for gifts for children.

They are then distributed by the Salvation Army to underprivileged children. Buy one gift or several people can go together and buy one. **Gifts must be returned to the church by Dec. 18th.**

Let's make a child happy on Christmas morning.
The Mission Team

Christmas Caroling To Be On Fridays In December At 6pm



Our youth groups, and any of you who would like to tag along, will be caroling on Friday nights in December. The Deacons will provide some special gifts and the young people will make special Christmas cards to give out.

Plan on being with us for an extended Christmas Caroling season. We will be visiting and singing to people we haven't been able to visit in past years. Join us!



News from the Deacons

Our annual Harvest Home Collection is a busy time of the year as we collect non-perishable items for the Community Food Bank. You may have noticed that we have a table set up in the vestibule for the collection. **We will be collecting until November 17.** Canned goods, soap, laundry detergent, diapers, and non-perishable foods are needed and greatly appreciated.

We will also have a large box for collecting (gently) used coats, jackets (in all sizes). This also goes to the Food Bank. Check your closets; maybe you have something you could donate. Last year we collected over 500 pounds (yes, that is correct!) of needed items, so we are counting on you to help us out.

With the closedown of the federal government and other economic downturns the Community Food Bank has experienced unusual demand. Recently The Press and Channel 40 ran stories showing many empty shelves. People were being turned away. We are also collecting coats for the City of Absecon to distribute to needy families right here in Absecon. This Thanksgiving season is our opportunity to make a difference. Please help.

Missionary Update – Lisa Whitaker

I walked up to passport control in the Miami airport. The officer asked me where I was coming from and I replied, “Haiti”. He said, “there on a mission trip?” I was a bit taken back as that is not usually the next question that comes from the border guards. I said, “yes, why did you ask that question?” He said, “well pretty much everyone that goes to Haiti is either a missionary or a relief worker”. I had noticed on my plane both coming and going, that there were several mission teams with matching t-shirts and some type of slogan across their shirts indicating they were from a certain denomination or humanitarian group. I had a mixture of thoughts as I considered the enormous number of people and resources that are going in and out of Haiti. On one hand, I am so grateful that even the border guard recognizes WHO is going into help - it is the body of Christ that is in constant flow in and out of that poverty-stricken country. On the other hand, I found myself asking, are we (the body of Christ) making a difference????

We will be asking Senior Youth, A2J and Lions & Lambs to help to bring these items down to the Nursery each week. On the final Sunday (11/17), the youth groups will place all items for donation in the back room (garage) for pick up by the Food Bank.

A big thank you to the youth groups for their muscle power in bringing all the items out to the garage. We truly appreciate everyone’s generosity during this season of Giving Thanks.

Thank You!

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

As you know I have traveled to many places around the world in my 22+ years of mission work, but I was disturbed as I walked around St. Marc, Haiti. This town was not really affected by the earthquake, it is two hours by car up the northwest coast from Port-au-Prince - where the epicenter of the earthquake was. Yet, St. Marc is very depressed and needy. I found the physical make up of the town very run down, full of trash and in disarray. The garbage is so bad that wild pigs and goats wander the streets getting their daily intake of trash and waste. Electricity and water are sporadic. It is hard to even capture on paper what the town was like - brown, dusty and literally full of trash.

It was a stark contrast for me to walk into the gates of our mission property and see green grass and no trash. The buildings are simple, not out of the norm, but they are painting the buildings bright colors. Color is one of the first things you notice when you enter the gates. It made me wonder what the Haitians think who come to the YWAM base for

Sunday school, to play soccer in the small stadium on campus or just to visit. Do they notice the difference? Do they realize that the trash and filth that is throughout the town is not because of physical poverty, but from a poverty mindset? Do they ever think that they too could plant grass, pick up trash and properly dispose of it in such a way that would completely transform their town?

This was all a very obvious picture to me of the effects of our worldview. Voodoo has become so strong in Haiti. Due to the beliefs and practices of voodoo, the physical world is of little importance. The understanding that God created the world and gave humanity stewardship over creation is no where to be found in the voodoo worldview.

Biblical worldview teaching is one of my passions. As I walked the streets of St. Marc, I found myself praying for revelation to come to the Haitian people that God created this beautiful island and He gave them, the Haitian people, responsibility to care and develop the land.

I absolutely loved teaching and meeting with our Caribbean staff during the week I was there. We had about 30 people in the class, half of whom either worked in Haiti and/or were Haitians. We also had staff there from the islands of Barbados, St.

Lucia, Grenada, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico along with others from Canada and the US. What an amazing group of young leaders. It was a privilege to teach them about starting new ministries and sitting down with them individually as they begin to step out to different peoples and places to share the Gospel.

I am looking forward to returning to Haiti, possibly next year, to specifically teach on worldview. This brings me back to the question, Are we making a difference? I suppose only God knows the real difference all the teams and resources are truly making in that country. But as I think of our staff living, playing and interacting with the Haitian people on a regular basis, demonstrating God's love and creating a place of beauty in the midst of trash, I would have to say - Yes, there is a difference being made. Step by step, colorful building by colorful building, green grass and garden by green grass and garden and individual person loved by individual person loved - there is a difference being made. Thank you for supporting me and praying for me so that I get to be a small part of that difference that is being made!

Much Love and Gratefulness,
Lisa



CROP Walk A Big Success – Now Pay Up!

The CROP Walk saw over 15 people from our church walk the 2½ mile loop around Absecon. Many of you have supported the walkers you agreed to sponsor, but a few have not. Please pay your walkers so this money can be turned in soon. Thank you.

If you would like to make an additional gift, please do so by Nov. 15.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

November is Stewardship Month – a time when we reflect on the year ending and how we will renew our spiritual adventure in 2014. The theme this year is **Our Journey Together 2014**. More than ever, there is a need for our congregation to do its small part in our troubled nation to keep the momentum of spiritual growth alive.

Together, with our time, talent, and resources we must renew our commitment to spread the Good News of God's Love through Worship Services, attending church on a regular basis, Christian Education, Missions and Outreach and Fellowship.

Beginning the second Sunday of November, a message will be presented supporting Our Journey at each service. We will identify our Church needs for 2014 and ask that you reflect on how you will contribute with your time, talent and treasure.

Following is the statistical report as of September. It is worthy to note that compared to 2012, giving has been less this year. This is reflected in the average weekly giving by month statistics at the bottom of this report. While the budget was higher this year, average weekly giving was higher than in 2012 for only three months and has been lower in each month since June.

Statistical Report for September

Budget for 2013	\$225,721.00
Budgetary needs through September 29, 2013	\$169,290.81
Our giving through 9/29/13	\$133,339.86
Investment Income	\$ 18,914.60
Rental Income (net without the \$18,000 expense)	\$ 14,686.16
Amount <u>under</u> budget (without considering \$18,000 expense)	\$ - 2,350.19
Amount <u>under</u> budget (with \$18,000 expense included)	\$ -20,350.19

<u>Average weekly giving by month</u>					
	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>
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	September	\$2920.75	\$3384.49
April	\$2757.42	\$3527.09			
May	\$3299.46	\$3271.90			
June	\$2686.87	\$3403.33			

Gerald W. Hoenes, Stewardship Committee Chairperson

October Thank Yous

Many thanks to our special helpers in October:

1. Marie Cronauer and her friend, Carmen, who came out in the beginning of the month to weed the area behind Madden Hall and the Bakely House.
2. Jan Jorgensen for taking out window air conditioners.
3. Dawn Duran, Nancy and all helpers who made the Applefest such a big success on Oct. 25. We loved the baked goods.
4. Tina, Linda and everyone who gave out goodies at Trunk or Treat. It worked well.
5. The choir and men's group who came in to sing on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Anne Leopold's service.
6. Leo and helpers who prepared the brunch on Oct. 20.
7. Vic & Rita who have led "Happy Friday" these last two years. We will miss this monthly event.
8. The fifteen people who walked on the CROP Walk. This was a bigger group than last year.
9. Scott, Dawn and others who made the Oct. 14 Lancaster bus trip to Sight and Sound happen.



I would like to thank all those who came out and supported our Applefest this year which was held on Fri., Oct 25th. Thank you to Nancy Sooy for making the hotdogs, Doris Wood for making the sauerkraut, and John Channell and his friends for providing the entertainment. And of course many thanks to the many hands that prepared the delicious apple desserts, they certainly were yummy. Also thanks to those who brought ice cream and cool whip and those who helped that day, whether it was set-up, serving, or clean-up, it was very much appreciated.

Our 2nd Monday Monthly Luncheon will resume on Nov 11th. The cost is \$7. The food will be cooked by Leo Ransone and will be delicious as always I'm sure. We could use some more helpers for that day, if interested please contact Karen Muldoon.

Our brunches have been going well and take place on the third Sunday of the month. The cost for brunch is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. There are tip jars on the tables for the youth groups that help serve the brunches. Please show your gratitude by putting a little something in the jars, thank you!

We will be having our Christmas concert on Dec 21st. The Holland Family will be playing, and if you have never heard them, then you are in for a treat. They are Fantastic! The concert starts at 7PM and is free, but please bring a love offering. (We will be taking up a collection to help offset the cost of having our wonderful musicians come play.) There are no reserved seats for this concert but if you have special needs, please speak to Joanie Hoenes as soon as possible.

Be on the lookout for our soup sales. We will be having the first soup sale on Jan 12th and the second one will be held on Feb 9th. Please let me know if you are interested in making soup for either one of these sales.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson

A Nov/Dec '13 "Update" On The Holland Family!!!

Jon and Vicki celebrated 30 years of marriage on June 25. Jon conducted the orchestra at Csehy Summer School of Music at Houghton College in NY this summer and recently returned from a missions trip to Haiti. Of course, he is still the music director at The Pilgrim Academy. Vicki has finished home schooling as Mark, the youngest, enters 10th grade at Pilgrim. Mark enjoys cello, piano, and Csehy. This past spring he won 2nd place in the Physical Science category at the Delaware Valley Science Fair.

Lauren completed her 3rd year as a resident assistant at the Black Forest Academy. We are glad to have her home for the year as she considers and prays for God's direction about going back to Germany. She is excited to be teaching Bible and keyboarding at Pilgrim.

Carolyn taught elementary music at the George Mitchell Elementary School in Little Egg Harbor

Twp. and is recently engaged. She has just returned from an inspiring two week adventure in Jordan and Israel. Peter, now a Sr. at Pilgrim, plays soccer and baseball, is the choir's pianist and is in the Festival Orchestra. Timothy starts his Jr. year as a violin Performance Major at Cairn University – having participated in the University's inspiring outreach program in Macedonia. Jonathan graduated from Bob Jones University majoring in euphonium performance and is starting a Master's Program there. He is thankful to be servicing the "electrical system" for BJU!!! (NOTE: Mom continues as Traffic Control Engineer -)

Our church is Blessed, indeed, as this gifted Christian family graciously returns to share the Joy of Christmas and Christ's Love with each of us.

TGBTG

Lunch Bunch To Travel To Windjammer Nov. 13

Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 on **Wednesday, Nov. 13**, to travel to The Windjammer in Somers Point. (Note the date change.) Ride the van or meet at the restaurant at noon.

EVERGREENS 2013 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Wednesday, December 4th, 12 Noon
Smithville Inn, Smithville, NJ

Menu Choices -- Choose one

Maryland Crab Cake	\$25.00
Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$25.00
Pan Seared Salmon	\$25.00

Name: _____

Menu Choice: _____

Number of People: _____ Paid: _____

Reservation Deadline: November 20

Call: Joanna Howell (383-9423) OR Marjorie McGuigan (965-3535)



Evergreens

The Evergreens will meet one week earlier, on November 20th, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Gerry Reedell will present a program on Christmas symbols, legends and traditions. Most of you know about the symbol of the Christmas tree and St. Nicholas. But do you know the legend of the robin or the icicle of the Christmas stocking? Come and hear about these legends and many more.

Please join us in Madden Hall at 12 noon. As always bring your own sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be served. You can also sign up then for the Evergreens 2013 Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Smithville Inn on Wednesday, December 4th.

Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 8:30. (Pastor will be away Nov. 2.) Breakfast will be pancakes. We will put finishing touches on the November 23 dinner.

Come and **CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH**
with *the*

The HOLLAND FAMILY

7pm Saturday ~ December 21, 2013



(Mom, Dad, Mark, Carolyn, Lauren, Peter, Timothy and Jonathan -- not shown)

Sorry, no dinner
this time - doors
OPEN 6:15p

Reserved
seats for
HANDICAPPED
Call
JOANIE
641-1839

No
TICKETS
NEEDED

LOVE
OFFERING

In Our Father's House



Hilda E. Melendez – October 7, 2013

Anne Leopold entered the presence of our Lord on Saturday, October 12. Her daughter, Priscilla, and close friends Joe & Louise, were at her bedside. Anne had been a member since November 1997. She met her future husband Wes Leopold in our church. They had been married for fifteen years. The service took place in our church and burial was in our cemetery.

Anne will always be remembered as a smiling and happy person. To be with her was to feel better about life. Her three children spoke eloquently at her service.

Anne raised her children in Lexington, MA where she sang in the choir at the congregational church and did volunteer work for the PTA, youth basketball, Cub & Girl Scouts, etc. Her career was in accounting on the federal and permit level.

Anne moved to New Jersey to be near Priscilla in 1996 and married Wes in 1998. They had a beautiful life together, but Anne suffered two strokes and spent the last 21 months in the Absecon Manor. During her illness Wes and Priscilla watched, fed, and supervised her care every day. It was an incredible labor of love!

Many thanks to the Deacons for serving lunch, Louise for the PowerPoint and assistance with technology, the men's fellowship and choir for singing, Harold Hawkes for playing the organ and the pastor for officiating. Everything came off just as planned.

Joe Wilson, a long time member of our church (54 years) went to glory the same day as Anne, Oct. 12. Joe had served as an elder and a trustee, but his building accomplishments in the 1980's will live on as his legacy to us:

1. Joe served on the building committee that built the Christian Ed. Building, helping design the heating system to include the sanctuary and hall.
2. Joe designed and was foreman of the garage committee which was built by a group of church volunteers in 1984. The building was so well built with insulation, heat, and lighting, that it quickly graduated from being a garage/cemetery storage to a game room to program space where children still gather to sing. The four spacious closets have been a God send to the Fellowship Committee, the Deacons, and youth to store athletic equipment, etc. Three AA groups meet in this space, and they, too, store their stuff in the cabinets along the wall. Thank you, Joe.
3. Joe also oversaw the transitioning of the old Madden Hall rest room area into a storage room, but there were no commercially produced table and chair dollies that would fit in the double door entrance way. Joe designed and built the dollies we use today. He was a master welder and made the piano bench in the lounge as well.

Joe loved our church and continued to use his envelopes and supported our church even though he had been unable to attend worship for over ten years. Joe had been in a terrible auto accident that left him limping and limited for the last forty years. He lived in almost constant pain with a titanium pin in his leg, yet never considered himself an invalid. He continued to draw, plan and execute projects, and love and support his three children, Tommy, Judy, and Cindy.

Joe had been married previously to the late Cathy Wilson. Cathy was the first person to be interred in our columbarium and was the mother of our own Tina Brown, a church officer and hard worker.

Joe was an Abbott Pharmaceutical salesman who took stock options, some of which he donated to our church for a tax deduction and to avoid capital gains. When the church was given the opportunity to buy the house at 19 School Street we didn't have the resources available. Doug Jablonski, the Finance Chairman at the time, figured out a way to procure this property without a mortgage. We sold the Abbott stock Joe had donated at a huge profit and paid cash for the house at settlement. Again, thank you, Joe, for not only expanding our buildings but our real estate holdings as well. This house currently is rented and produces income for the church, but it may someday be a place to house church offices, expand parking, or a place to expand the size of Madden Hall. Thanks, Joe, for once again providing for our future development and security.

Joe's services were held at Wimberg Funeral Home on Oct. 20. A Masonic service preceded our pastor's service. A flag was presented to his family in recognition of Joe's service to our country in the Army Reserves.



Mistletoe Mart – Saturday, Nov. 23, 9:30am-2:00pm

Gift Baskets, Crafts, Food Items, Religious Items, Children's Table, Chance Table

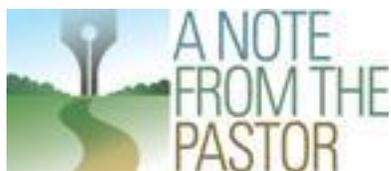
Gourmet Luncheon 11:00-1:00
Adults \$8.00 Children under 11 \$4.00

St. Mark and All Saints Episcopal Church
429 S. Pitney Road, Galloway

For information call 609/652-6222

Wednesday Night AA To Begin Meeting Oct. 30

A new AA group will begin meeting in Madden Hall at 8:00pm on Wednesday nights. An agreement was written October 17.



Legacy And Stewardship

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” ~ Matthew 6:19, 21

All churches go through times of grief and remembering, and ours has seen a lot this year. On Oct. 12 two saints of the Lord went to glory, and their services were full of stories that had to do with giving back. Anne Leopold's obituary was full of volunteer organizations, singing in her church choir, loving relationships, and

giving the gift of joy to everyone she spent time with. Joe Wilson's contributions to our church included being foreman of our church garage project, serving on the committee that built the Christian Ed. building in 1978, and designing and building the table and chair dollies in Madden Hall. Both individuals had special and unique gifts to offer, and they did.

One thing I have noticed at funerals is the focus is on what people gave and gave back in their lives. I've never heard stories about how someone stepped on their coworkers to get a promotion, or how someone hoarded money when their family was in need, or how someone built up wealth while those close to them lost everything. (Even if those things were true we wouldn't point them out at a funeral.)

When it comes right down to it, we are remembered for our stewardship. The service to church and community, what projects we helped with, our parenting, family commitments, favors given to friends and neighbors, and anything we did to make the world a better place is what gets remembered. Even the smiles, good will, and friendly hellos are what we remember. That is the use of our time, talent and treasure, which is what stewardship is all about.

As pastor, I see stewardship all the time. I see it in Sunday School, youth groups, serving at Sister Jean's, home deliveries, Prayer Shawl ministries, choir, bell choir, cooking and serving meals, fundraisers, work days, and helping in dozens of little ways behind the scenes. Some of our church officers give hours every week, and some of our employees give way more than their job description requires. It would be nice to recognize all these contributions, but few are ever recognized in life. Some will be recognized and mentioned when we die. All are recognized by God.

As we approach stewardship season, maybe we should have a nightmare about our own funeral. There we are looking down from heaven as people get up to speak about us, but instead of remembering all the good, they only remember our lazy times. "They had a great voice, but never sang in choir." "They loved children, but never taught Sunday School." "Boy could they cook, but they never helped with a church supper." "They could be caring and compassionate, but they never became a deacon" or "They were asked to be a church officer, but always said 'No'." And then people start to make excuses at your funeral – "I guess I should have reached out to them, but they never reached out to me." "I would have liked to work on something with them, but they never wanted to do anything." "I wish I could have helped them, but they never helped others so I assumed they were closed to being helped themselves." "I would have been there during their last days, but it didn't occur to me. I didn't know how to break the ice."

And now wake up. Like Scrooge at Christmas, you decide that this will never be your legacy. It's time to make a difference.

November is Stewardship Month. It's not just about money. It's about our whole lives. It's about reaching out. It's about giving back. It's about making a difference. It's all about priorities, use of resources and how we live our lives.

That is legacy, and that is stewardship. If you don't know how to be a better steward, let us help you. The Talent Bank forms give us many areas of service. Our estimate of giving cards guide us in percentage giving. James Dobson of Focus on the Family says, "We don't give because God needs the money. We give because we need to give it." It begins with our determination to be a better steward, to want to change our legacy.

Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 24. Let it change your life. Stewardship certainly motivates me to change mine.

- Dave

Lay Assistants

- 3 9:30 Scott Sabo
11:00 Rev. Gerry Reedell
10 9:30 Karen Muldoon
11:00 Dawn Duran
17 9:30 Scott Sabo
11:15 Vic Abelson
24 9:30
11:00 Rev. Gerry Reedell

Head Ushers

- 3 9:30 Vic & Rita Abelson
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro
10 9:30 Elaine Riskey, Carol Thomas
11:00 Joanna Howell, Cheryl Hawkes
17 9:30 Dee & Jack Heil
11:15 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
24 9:30 Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro

Collection

- 3 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
10 Bob Wilkenloh, Edith Budd
17 Bill & Ginny Davenport
24 Roy Birkbeck

Deacons for the Month

- 1st Svc Naida Burgess
2nd Svc Mary Bew

Acolyte

- 3 Libby Little
10 Justin Hughes
17 Elisa Wong
24 Sam Burgess

Nursery

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

Van Drivers

- 3 John Channell
10 Barb Hughes
17 Tina Brown
24 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

- 3 Carol Kleiner
10
17 Brunch
24

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 3 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood
10 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
17 Join us for Brunch!
Set-up – Youth Group
Clean-up – Church Members
24 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

