

March 2014

Good News

Verse of the Month: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” ~ Proverbs 3:5-6*



BE SURE TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP SATURDAY, MARCH 8!

The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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2014 Newsletter Postage Fees Due

Postal fees for the 2014 Good News home delivery are now due. Payment of \$10.00 must be submitted to the church office by March 20.

This service is provided for those who do not have internet service or can not pick up a copy in person.



Confirmation Classes To Begin March 9 With Parents' Meeting

Confirmation will begin on Sunday, March 9, at 2:00pm in the lounge for students, parents, and sponsors.

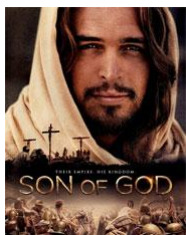
Confirmation is a six week process for teens 14 and up joining church for the first time. It is an opportunity to explore your faith, your call, and your heritage as a Presbyterian. Young people need to attend church during this process, take notes on sermons, memorize verses, and write a statement of faith. They also need to participate in the life of the church and do a mission project.

Confirmands will be presented to session at the May 6 meeting. They will be confirmed on May 18. We begin in the lounge with a parents meeting at 2:00pm on March 9. This is required as there are requirements and dates to be discussed. Mr. Bob Gillis, our high school Sunday School teacher, will conduct this class.

New Member Classes To Be Offered March 9, 16, & 23 At 4:00pm

Our January membership classes could not be held due to weather and sickness, so we will try again in March. There will be three classes – one on faith development, one on history & Presbyterian heritage, and one on our church here in Absecon.

Addicted₂Jesus (A₂J) – Junior High Youth News



With the start of Lent in March, A₂J is kicking off the holy season with a trip to the Frank Theatres Towne Stadium 16 in EHT on Sunday, March 16, for a viewing of the Son of God. A parent is encouraged to attend with their youth under the age of 13 as this film is rated PG13. From the official website: *Now, the larger-than-life story of The New Testament gets a larger-than life treatment in the stand-alone feature SON OF GOD. Told with the scope and scale of an action epic, the film features powerful performances, exotic locales, dazzling visual effects and a rich orchestral score from Oscar®-winner Hans Zimmer. Portuguese actor Diogo*

Morgado portrays Jesus as the film spans from his humble birth through his teachings, crucifixion and ultimate resurrection. It marks the first motion picture about Jesus' life since Passion of the Christ, released ten years ago. For more information about the film, please visit the official website <http://www.sonofgodmovie.com/home.html>. If you are interested in attending the film with A₂J, Please contact Linda Gillis.

At the end of March, A₂J will take another trip to the movies to see Noah. Location, date and time will be announced to youth when it is available. From the movieinsider.com *God is saddened at the wickedness of*

mankind and sends a great flood to destroy all life on Earth, but instructs Noah, a man "righteous in his generation," to build a wooden ark and save a remnant of life from the Flood. Noah builds the ark and saves his family and representatives of all animals from the massive flood waters which cover the Earth. If you are interested in attending the film with A₂J please contact Linda Gillis.



Youth can be seen after service weekly participating in fun activities, bible study that is geared especially to their age, and fellowship including a parent provided lunch.

In His Service,
Linda



Women's Circles

Moses left Egypt because he was wanted for murder. Now, after meeting God at the burning bush, Moses obeys God's call to go back. He returns to face his past and to fight for the future of his people. Bolstered by God's reassurance, Moses returns to Egypt with his brother Aaron at his side. Together, they face Pharaoh and make a grand request. But Moses return to Egypt didn't go as planned. Plan A didn't work. A great plan and a bold request ended in disaster. In fact, it created worse conditions for the Hebrew slaves, who were forced to do more work with less material.

Members of Sarah Circle, please note the change of date for the March meeting. We will not meet at our regular date because of the Unity Dinner. The Sarah Circle will meet one week earlier on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. in Cobb Lounge. The Ruth Circle will meet at the home of Betsy Cunius at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7th. The Martha Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 13th at the home of Carol Thomas. 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.

The Lord of the Rings Series Continues



A₂J and the Sunday School continue sponsoring a fellowship event exploring the christian themes in The Lord of the Rings series. Come join us as we view the 2 remaining films in the series. Bob Gillis is leading us in a discussion about the author and the christian inspirations that can be found in each of these movies. Each movie will be viewed in Madden Hall from 1 p.m. until approximately 5 p.m. for viewing and discussion as follows:

- Saturday, March 8 for *The Two Towers*
- Saturday, March 22 for *The Return of the King*

Tickets are purchased at the door prior to each show for \$2. Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be provided. All are invited and encouraged to attend; however, it is strongly recommended that this is not appropriate for children under the age of 10. Please contact Linda Gillis if you have any questions.



Many thanks to Sam Burgess, Bud Burgess and Gia Esposito for providing Call to Worship in February.

I would like to schedule our youth who sing, play an instrument, or would like to read scripture in the coming months for Call to Worship. If you son or daughter is interested please give me a call. I will also contact those we have heard from in the past to plug them in again. We really love seeing our young people take part in the worship service.

Priscilla and I are organizing an Easter skit entitled "Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit". This is an all male cast. Calls have been made, but if any of our young men would like to be involved please contact Priscilla or me. We will begin rehearsals in March and they will be held on Sundays mornings at 8:30.

Worship and Program Director
Anna Mae



Contemporary Worship Music To Debut March 9

Our newest singing group, which has been rehearsing Sunday afternoons, will sing four selections at the 9:30 service on March 9. The choir will not sing that day, but praise music is a bit different because we will ask that you all join in at points. The words will be on the screen. We hope this will add joy, energy, and spiritual praise to our worship!

Lenten Services To Begin With Unity Dinner March 12

The Absecon/Galloway clergy have announced the schedule for Lenten ecumenical services which begin March 12 at 6:30 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. The church’s music group, Suite Inspiration, will provide the program. For reservations see Joan Nale. Cost is \$6.00.

The schedule for the Lenten Lunches is as follows:

- March 19 – Noon Reformation Lutheran
- March 26 – Noon Absecon Methodist
- April 02 – Noon St. Mark and All Saints
- April 09 – Noon Absecon Presbyterian

The Holy Thursday Communion will be 7:00pm at Absecon United Methodist Church and Good Friday worship will be at Noon at St. Mark and All Saints. Easter Sunrise will be at the Heritage Park gazebo at 7:00am on Easter, April 20.



Easter Tokens To Be Given Our March 9

This year’s token is fish shaped and reads ICTHUS on one side and “Jesus Christ Savior, Son of God” on the other.

There is a card explaining the history and significance of the fish symbol, and the tail is looped so you can put it on your key ring.

Please carry these Lenten mementos with you throughout the Season of Lent.



2014 Flower Chart

The 2014 Altar Flower chart is hanging in the vestibule. If you would like to donate flowers for any Sunday service please mark the chart to reserve your date and fill in a form which can be found next to the chart. The cost of a single urn bouquet is \$55.00 which includes the delivery fee.

If you would prefer to place your own order (and arrange your own delivery) you are welcome to do so. Be sure to reserve your date on the chart and fill in the form with the information you would like in the bulletin.

Forms and payment (if applicable) are due in the church office no later than noon the Tuesday before your reserved date.



Mission/Evangelism

Jennifer has moved on from the Bakely house. We have begun to assess what needs to be done in repairs to ready the house for the next guest. We had raised the annual budget for this house for the year 2014. We already know it needs some bathroom improvements, which can be costly, termite treatment and a front storm door. Any help with this is always appreciated. Karen Muldoon and Ed Little have already volunteered to work on the house.

We are collecting health kits again this year now through the end of March. The collection box with a list of contents is located in the vestibule. When completed we send these kits to Church World Services. They are then sent to areas that have been struck by disasters such as hurricane Sandy, the Philippines typhoon ect. We have done this for the last two years. Last year you supplied one hundred kits.

The Family Fun Day date has been set for August 16th, rain date August 23rd, 2014.

This month also begins One Great Hour of Sharing. The minute for mission dates are March 23rd and April 6th.

Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless,
Russ Adkisson Jr.



News from the Deacons March 2014

Deacons had their reorganization meeting and picture taken February 15 (thank you to Louise Speitel who took our picture). We welcomed our newest members Anita Brown and Mae Sterling. Kris Jenoriki is back for her second three-year term. Our officers are Naida Burgess - Moderator, Kris Jenoriki - Vice Moderator, Ilsa Smith - Secretary, and Carol Jorgenson - Treasurer. Other members also include Joann Weller, Dottie McCaffrey and Ginny Davenport. A special thank you to retiring officers Mary Bew and Jinny Wolcott.

This will be a busy Spring for the Deacons, as we will have our Bereavement/Friendship Luncheon. This Luncheon is for families of our congregation who have lost a loved in the past two years and will be on **April 27** following the 11:00 am service.

Our next Deacon's meeting will be on March 29 in Cobb's lounge at 10 am. We will be planning our Bereavement/Friendship Luncheon and putting together our Easter goodie bags.

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



Men's Club Sweetheart Dinner Raises \$564 For ACRM

Many thanks to Melvin, Leo, Roger Wolcott, Dave Stebbins, Pastor Cobb, the set up crew, our Wednesday Speakers Group, and Glenn Sarkis (music) for a great event on Feb. 15. The amount in the table jars was \$100 even, and with the profit from the dinner we were able to send \$564 to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. We are pleased that our two fundraisers have now raised over \$1,100 for Sister Jean's and the Rescue Mission.

News From Our Missionaries

From Pastor Karen ~

This time of year most pastors are preparing for Lent and Easter. However, I am more interested in what happens after Easter this year. Plans are being made for the first study/travel seminar offered by the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Sixteen people from the US, Canada, Europe, and Scandinavia will be coming to the Czech Republic for the seminar "In the Footsteps of Jan Hus and Martin Luther" which will take place from April 28th through May 6th. Two of your very own from Absecon Presbyterian Church will be coming along; Pastor Gerry Reedell and Tina Brown.

I'm sure Pastor Gerry would back me up on this when I say that Jan Hus barely, if at all, got a mention during our Church History courses at Princeton Theological Seminary. Although he is little known in much of Church History, Jan Hus was one of the early forerunners of the Reformation more widely attributed to Martin Luther. Nearly 100 years before Luther, Hus advocated for important reforms in the church. A priest in what was then known as Bohemia, which is now the Czech Republic, he advocated for two significant changes in the Church. First, and I'm not sure if I should thank him or curse him for this, he advocated for the worship service to be conducted in the language of the people, Czech. And secondly, he advocated for the laity to receive both the bread and wine in Communion. This year we mark the 600th anniversary of the latter event here in Prague at the Church where that happened first, St. Martin's in the Wall. Next year we mark the 600th anniversary of Hus' being burnt at the stake for advocating for these, and many other, changes.

Participants in the seminar will learn about all of this and see first-hand the places where these and other important events occurred. Hopefully participation in the seminar will enable everyone to have a deeper appreciation of the important roots of the German and Swiss Reformations which are an important part of our history as Presbyterians.

I invite you to pray for me and all of us putting this seminar together. I also invite you to pray for Pastor Gerry and Tina as they prepare for their trip and as they participate in the seminar. I'm sure they'll tell you all about it when they return.

S přáním Božího požehnání,

Wishing you God's blessings,

Karen

Rev. Dr. Karen R Moritz
PCUSA Mission Coworker
Prague, Czech Republic
revkarenmoritz@gmail.com
Karen.moritz@pcusa.org

From Lisa ~

My first day off here in Holland I visited the city of Haarlem. Yes, the Haarlem that is the name sake for the one in New York! The reason I visited is because, it is there that a normal house along one of the walking streets has a story to tell. This home is where Corrie Ten Boom and her family rescued hundreds of Jewish people during WW2. I crawled into the small hiding place the size of a closet, where 6 people hid from the Gestapo for 47 hours. Corrie's 84 year old father was arrested that day and died 10 days later in a concentration camp. Corrie and her sister Betsy were both in their 50's when they were arrested and taken to the concentration camp. Betsy died in Ravensbruck camp at the age of 59, but Corrie was released at age 53. This family sacrificed so much, even their own lives in order to save innocent people from a corrupt system.

As I left the home that is now a museum, I asked a friend what stood out to him about the Ten Boom story. His immediate reply was . . . "what a difference one family can make!" Yes, what a difference in so many lives. I then thought about how old the Ten Booms were when this all happened. We so often think that those who make a difference are young and in the prime of life! Corrie's father was 84! Corrie and her sister were considered old spinster sisters in their 50's - all the while running a non-violent, underground resistance movement! This small family stood up for what was right, received refugees into their home and sacrificed their own safety. Yes, what a difference they made. Their lives continue to inspire over 20,000 people a year who come to visit their home and hear their story.

I was challenged afresh that no group is too small and no person is too old to make a difference! God loves to call us right where we are, in whatever season of life we are in to share His love and reach out to those around us!

Thank you for continuing to invest in me as I invest into the nations. I look forward to sharing more stories from this coming month as I train staff and teach in a Discipleship Training School in Asia.

With much appreciation,
Lisa



Stewardship Committee Report

Our Journey Together Continues...2014

We begin 2014 having enough income to pay our bills for the month. The major difference between January 2014 and January last year is a substantial decline in giving. Last year, January proved to be the highest giving month of the year. It was over \$3000 greater than January this year. The weather this year could be a factor in the decline. One month does not make a trend and we will continue monitoring the figures and report to you monthly.

Statistical Report for January 2014

Budget for 2014	\$231,696.00
Budgetary needs through January 26, 2014	\$ 17,822.80
Our giving through 1/26/14	\$ 13,834.27
Investment Income	\$ 1,662.40
Rental Income (net)	\$ 2,523.00
Total	\$ 18,019.67
Amount <u>over</u> budget	\$ 196.87

Average weekly giving by month

	2014	2013
January	\$3050.76	\$4080.67

Stewardship Committee

February Thank Yous

While February is short on days, it is long on activities and mission. Special thanks to the following:

1. The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship for their Sweetheart Dinner. Especially:
 - a. Leo and Melvin for cooking
 - b. Dave Stebbins for purchasing
 - c. Norman Johnson for most tickets sold (20)
 - d. Six members of our Wednesday Speakers Group for serving and cleaning up
 - e. Steve Irish for last minute cooking and Glen Sarkis for the special music
 - f. The pastor for his jokes
 - g. Roger Wolcott for all the decorations and center piece candles

2. Our contemporary music group, especially the following:
 - a. Vic Werner for directing
 - b. Stan Richards for technical help
 - c. Cassie, Autumn, and other young people who have been singing
 - d. Rob Perry on guitar, Zack Perry on bass, John Channell on guitar, and Woody Duncan on ukulele, Ed Little on drums, and Harold on organ

- e. All our singers and back up
3. Jan Jorgensen for electrical work, fixing door stops, etc. Welcome home!
 4. Vic Werner for adjustments to the heating and repairs.
 5. Those who helped with the “Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner” event March 1. Especially Nancy who cooked.
 6. All the helpers who spent many hours here during the picture taking on Feb. 6-8 and Feb. 19-20. Especially the following:
 - a. Louise & Kris who did scheduling
 - b. Anna Mae for technical assistance
 - c. Carol Thomas, Fran Weir, Dottie McCaffery, Kris, Olga, Jean who manned the registration tables. It was a lot of hours.
 7. Gia Esposito, Sam and Bud Burgess for special music as our Call To Worship Feb. 23
 8. JoAnn Sabo for all the work on Pennies For Pins
 9. Our Golf Committee, already hard at work.
 10. Leo and helpers for a great brunch on Feb. 23
 11. Loretta, Dawn and others who got the 2nd Monday Monthly Lunch together on Feb. 10 while Karen was away.

Golf/Auction Fundraiser



Put down your snow shovels and get ready for golf!

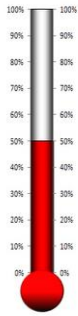
May 18th @ Mays Landing Country Club
 \$125.00/golfer or \$400.00 for a foursome
 \$35.00 for the auction and dinner only

We will be holding our event in the Fraiser Room. We will have plenty of room for you and our auction items, PLUS a beautiful view of the course.

The hole in one prize will be a Chevrolet Camaro.

See anyone of the committee to get more information

Karen Muldoon



Winter fundraiser totals \$6,220 as of Feb. 23

The Winter Fundraiser for manse renovations was \$6,220 as of Feb. 23.

This emphasis will continue into early March. We need to raise at least enough to replace the roof (about \$8,000).

Have we heard from you?



Lunch Bunch To Windjammer In Somers Point, March 5

Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 on March 5 to travel to the Windjammer in Somers Point. This place is a favorite.

Meet at the church at 11:30 or at the restaurant at Noon.



2nd Monday Monthly Lunch To Be Held March 10

Our 2nd Monday Lunch will feature shrimp cocktail, beef stroganoff, and pound cake with lime curd.

Be sure to sign up on the sheet in the vestibule by March 5. Cost is \$7.00 at the door.



Evergreens

Evergreen's will not be meeting this month as Lent lunches are being scheduled. We will meet in April. Watch for announcements and reserve May 28th for our spring luncheon at Smithville Inn.



Men's Fellowship To Meet March 1

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will have their monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, March 1, at 8:30am. Breakfast will be pancakes - \$3.00



Spring is Coming! - - - - so,

Mark your calendars NOW for

*Our 1st 2014 Congregational Event!
Saturday May 3 Dinner & Gospel Concert
By 2nd Baptist Church of Atlantic City
(45 Voice Choir!)*

(all details will be in April's Good News - - -)



Thank you, all, for your good thoughts, prayers, cards, etc. while I was in the hospital. I feel so much better than I have for quite some time and hope to improve even more. What a joy to know friends care ~ ~ Praise God, He is so good to us. Love, Marjorie Hamer

In Our Father's House

Dick Waters
May 13, 1926 – February 6, 2014

Community News

Announcing 2 “very-nice” special events both on Sunday, March 16

1. 2pm – “Sound of Music”, Holy Spirit HS Auditorium – No charge!
2. 6pm – “The Holland Family” in concert, Linwood Community Church (Love Offering)



“Do You Want To Be Healed?”

“O God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh longs for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.” ~ Psalm 63:1

I was impressed to hear an Olympian medal winner tell a reporter when asked what the first thing necessary to win gold was say “You’ve got to want it more than anything else.” Watching skiers at 60 mph on the downhill or snow boarders 25’ in the air above the half pipe make me shudder. But I also realize “They want this that much!”

My wants are a lot more mundane. I want it to be spring. I want it to be warm. I want lunch to be soon. I want my family to be happy. I want to be healthy. I want to go to Bermuda this year.

Wanting is ok. In fact, life is made up of wanting. When we stop wanting, we stop living a meaningful life. Wanting gives us hope for a better tomorrow. Wanting keeps us dreaming, planning, striving, yearning, and moving toward goals.

Wanting is the spice of life and the motivator to better ourselves, our world, our relationships, our career, our spirituality. The question is “Are our wants in accord with God’s will for us?” Drug addicts want drugs and materialists want money, but that doesn’t make it good. On the other hand, knowing God expects us to be generous, helpful, prayerful, worshipful, and mission minded doesn’t necessarily make us want to do those things. And if we don’t feel motivated to do them, we don’t put much effort into them. What we want makes us who we are.

When Rev. Henk Vigeveno was here five years ago he told us that most churches don’t grow because they don’t want to. Nor do they add programs, change worship, music, etc., or do much of anything out of their comfort zone. While they say they need change, they sit in the same seat and expect the same dog & pony show week after week. Churches bore themselves into decline because they don’t have the motivation to want anything better. Some are afraid to want anything better.

On Feb. 23 our church took the U.S. Congregational Life Survey. It’s designed to tell us who we are, what we do well, and where we need to go. It can lead us, but it can’t make us want to go there. We have to do that for ourselves. Wanting for ourselves what God wants for us is a hard discipline.

My Monday Bible study recently took a new look at Jesus’ healing of the lame man by the Pool of Bethesda. The first thing Jesus asked him was “Do you want to be healed?” Even Jesus knew not much happens until we want it. This lame man had made no effort to better himself for 38 years!

How do we become a first class church, grow our Sunday School, and see our membership increase? We have to want it bad enough to invite our friends, neighbors, etc., and modernize our church enough to make it appealing to a new generation. We need to want it enough to put in a major effort. There are no easy answers. Our church will not find renewal until we want it like an Olympian wants Gold. Just as we do not find God until we seek Him with all our heart.

Let’s pray that God will increase our wanting for the advance of His Kingdom and decrease our wanting for the mundane in life.

- Dave

Lay Assistants

- 2 9:30 Scott Sabo
11:00
9 9:30 Rev. Gerry Reedell
11:00 Vic Abelson
16 9:30 Lee Wolff
11:15 Priscilla Schultheis
23 9:30 Russ Adkisson
11:00 Dawn Duran
30 9:30 Lee Wolff
11:00 Rev. Gerry Reedell

Head Ushers

- 2 9:30 Vic & Rita Abelson
11:00 Jean Delesantro, Tina Brown
9 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
11:00 Leslie Harvey, Shirley Smith
16 9:30 Irene Hunter, Ilsa Smith
11:15 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
23 9:30 Jan & Carol Jorgensen
11:00 Joanna Howell, Cheryl Hawkes
30 9:30 Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd

Collection (9:30)

- 2 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
9 Dee & Jack Heil
16 Betty Price, Edith Budd
23 Naida & David Burgess
30 Bob Wilkenloh, Roy Birkbeck

Deacons for the Month

- 1st Svc Naida Burgess
2nd Svc

Acolyte

- 2 Maddie Lewis
9 Justin Hughes
16 Ray Lewis
23 Elisa Wong
30 Sam Burgess

Nursery

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

Van Drivers

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

Refreshment Hosts

- 2 Carol Kleiner, Leslie Harvey
9 Vic & Rita Abelson, Joyce Pfeiffer
16 Join us for Brunch!
23 Ilsa Smith, Carol Thomas
30 Russ & Linda Adkisson, Dee Heil

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 2 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood
9 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
16 No Breakfast; Join us for Brunch!
23 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
30 Set-up – Linda Adkisson
Cook – Russ Adkisson
Clean-up – Gayle Ackerman

