

May 2014

# *Good News*

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**Verse of the Month:** *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” ~ Matthew 11:28*



*The Presbyterian Church at Absecon*

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## Sunday School and Related News for May

Our Easter production and Egg Hunt was a great success! Huge thanks to all who stuffed eggs, made a dish or volunteered in anyway. Our kids had a great day!

### **Up Coming Events**

- ◆ Even though we have had a tough winter, many of our young people have had fantastic attendance this year and are encouraged to keep it up.
- ◆ Bring A Friend Sundae has been moved to May 18, 2014. Come on out with a friend and enjoy some ice cream and fellowship.
- ◆ Our Mission Project Sunday will be on April 27, 2014. We will be making tissue flowers and cards for the residents of Absecon Manor.
- ◆ Remember that we offer \$100 camp scholarships to any of our Sunday School kids who attend a Christian camp this summer. Contact the office for details. We are expecting a visit from Camp Haluwasa on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ June 1<sup>st</sup> we will recognize our young people with certificates for attendance and other achievements throughout the year.
- ◆ Stay tuned for details about our many events which will take place in early spring and summer.

Thank you to all whose love and Support have helped our program,

In His Service, Tina

### Lions And Lambs



For the Lenten Season, Lions and Lambs families were given a beautiful book, *The Lord's Prayer*, by Rick Warren and Richard Jesse Watson, for the purpose regular prayer. Line by line, the commentary by Rick Warren along with the extraordinary illustrations, encouraged both thoughtfulness and gratitude for our Creator, and what He has personally done for each of us.

During our Easter celebration each child got to decorate a cookie, shaped like an egg, representing

New Life. On Palm Sunday, a second cookie egg bearing a cross was distributed to members along with the Berenstain Bear's version of the Easter Story for Holy Week to emphasize and remember what Easter is truly about.

THE MAY MEETING, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>th</sup>, WITH A2J HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

In His Service,  
JoAnn Sabo, Director of Lions and Lambs

## Christian Readers Book Club May 21 at 6:30pm

The Christian Readers book club will be meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will be reviewing the book The Prayer Chest by Joel Fostinos. It is a very interesting book about a man named Joseph and his family and the Prayer Chest. Please come and join us!

(There are 19 copies in the library system.)

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### Moms To Receive Wristlet Purse With Devotional Booklet

We always honor our mothers on Mother's Day with a special token of our affection. This year our moms will get a special wristlet purse with devotional booklet with devotions just for moms to get you through the hard days.

Moms, we love you!

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### Mission/Evangelism

Jenifer and her son Matthew are now living in the Bakely House and attend 9:30 service regularly. We will continue to do some maintenance work on the house throughout this year.

The total number of health kits collected this year is 43.

Our congregation contributed \$881 for the One Great Hour Of Sharing offering to date.

As of May 1<sup>st</sup> we have 5 mission teams scheduled to stay in our church this summer.

We are working on plans for our next Family Funday. Volunteers are needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless,  
Russ Adkisson, Jr.

### PB & JAM Needed!

Our deacons' supply of **peanut butter and JAM** for Sandwiches for Sister Jean's is running a bit low. If you would like to help us restock, please leave your donations of **peanut butter and/or JAM** in the kitchen and marked for the deacons.

If you would like to help make sandwiches see John Harvey. Volunteers are also needed to help serve at the kitchen. Call the office for the schedule.

### **Mission Auction At Ocean Heights Presbyterian To Benefit Real Partners Uganda June 7**

Each year the Ocean Heights and Brigantine Presbyterian churches join together to hold a mission fair for the children in the Mustard Seed Academy in Uganda. In past years they raised money to furnish two classrooms, equip a kitchen, and purchase 60 beds for the dormitory. This year they want to buy e-readers, computers, and related technology – a worthy and ambitious goal.

The auction needs items and services to be sold/auctioned. If you can donate call our church office or the Ocean Heights office at 788-0271.

Many of our members sponsor students at the academy, and this project is in our mission budget. Let us show our support by attending and donating. The van will leave at 5:30 on June 7. The event runs from 6-8 pm. Admission and refreshments are free.



Finally, we are seeing hints of Spring and warmer weather to come. The Deacons have been busy and last met on March 29 to plan our Bereavement Luncheon and put together Easter Goodie bags for various members of our church. A great big thank you to everyone who helped put these together and deliver them.

While writing this, the Bereavement (Friendship) Luncheon is about a week away. The Deacons sent out twenty-nine invitations for the April 27 Luncheon. This special Luncheon is held every 2 years to honor a loved one who has passed on. A lot of preparation goes on behind the scenes for this bi-annual event. A sincere thank you to everyone who participated and who helped make this event possible.

The next Deacons meeting will be on Tuesday, May 6, at 6pm and we will stay to report to the Session at 7pm.

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

### **From Our Missionaries...**

As you read this article we will be well into the Easter season, however, as I write this it is Maundy Thursday. The Central Church Office of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) closes for the long Easter weekend just as the offices will at the PCUSA headquarters in Louisville. Although I have lived here for over three years I am still struck by the similarities and differences in the ways we all observe this important holiday. Unlike the church in Absecon, most ECCB congregations do not have a worship service on Maundy Thursday. However, since I work in the Central Church Office we were led in a short worship service by the ECCB Moderator Joel Ruml. Various people read the Passion narrative as recorded in Mark. We interspersed our readings with various hymns. We sang traditional favorites like "Byl jsi tam" (Were You There) and "Spolu lájmeme chleb na kolenou" (Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees). In anticipation of Easter we sang one of my favorites "Bud' tobě sláva" (Thine is the Glory). Is this a bad sign? I had to look up the English title for the last one, I had forgotten it. I guess I've sang it in Czech too many times. ☺

Most of our ECCB congregations will have a service for Good Friday but, unlike our congregations, they will gather for the Lord's Supper. Since I attend an English Speaking Anglican Church as well I will go to church tonight, probably twice tomorrow for the Czech and English services, and probably twice on Easter Sunday. I get to sing my favorite Easter hymns twice, once in Czech and once in English. No matter what tradition we come from we all move through the solemn days of Holy Week into the joy of resurrection.

In addition to all the worship services people do many of the same activities for Easter. They boil and color eggs, they make special Easter treats, and they eat chocolate. Although we all have variations on the theme of Easter the central things remain the same.

přeji Vám všem radostné a požehnané prožívání Velikonoc.

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Easter season,

Karen

Rev. Dr. Karen R. Moritz  
PCUSA Mission Coworker  
Prague, Czech Republic

### **The Relentless Pursuit of God**

I sat across a small table from this young woman. She is in her 20's, very intelligent, great communicator, former Communist - and searching for God. She is part of a group I taught while in Asia last month. I was thinking back over the last 2 weeks with her.

When I arrived, she came up to me and in broken English said - "I am "very expecting" this week for all you will teach!" I could see in her eyes that she truly was expectant . . . anxious to hear about worldviews. The first few days of teaching I talked about the roots of false worldviews in our lives and the fruit those false beliefs produce. After teaching on several false systems of beliefs, she again came up to me and said - I cannot wait until you teach on the kingdom of God. I have realized that I need to pull out the roots of the false beliefs, but I need to fill that emptiness with truth. Yes, she is a very astute, intelligent young woman.

The last day of class, I found myself sitting at that small table with her and the school leader. She again explained to me her disappointment in Communism, Buddhism and other worldviews she had put her faith in. She told me that even though she was still not sure about God, she had looked at Christians and saw something different in them. She then said, what I don't understand is . . . if Christians can talk to God, I mean, just talk to Him whenever they want, why don't they do it more often? Yes, she is very astute. What a fascinating, honest, pure, convicting question. I said to her, that is a very good and legitimate question. I'm not sure why we as Christians don't talk to God more, but I'm pretty sure the answer to that question is different for every person.

I then asked if she had ever just talked with God herself? She said she didn't know how. I explained that talking with God is just like talking with me and the school leader. She said, ok, I can do that. Together the three of us talked with God. She started off her prayer telling God that she wanted to talk with Him but she didn't know how. She asked Him to show her how to communicate with Him and to help her get to know Him better. I have to say it was one of the purest, most honest prayers I have ever heard.

This young woman told me that she could not understand why God would send me and my friend halfway around the world with gifts for them when we didn't even know them. She is experiencing the amazing pursuit of God - who will go OUT of His way to let one person know, they are worth it!

I am so grateful to the Father, that He listens to pure, unpracticed prayers, that He invites us to be a part of His family, and that He pursues us halfway around the world if need be - all because of HIS GREAT LOVE. I am looking forward to hearing how God continues to reveal Himself to this woman in the coming months.

Thank you for being a part of God expressing His love to the world - one young woman at a time, one former Communist at a time, one searching person at a time. His love truly is amazing and He so graciously invites ALL of us to take part in the pursuit!

Blessings,  
Lisa



### Stewardship Committee

Compared to the first three months of 2013, our giving has declined significantly this year. Perhaps this is because some of you diverted your giving to the Winter Fundraiser from what was pledged. Giving so far this year is about \$5000 less when compared to the same time last year. Last year at this time, our income exceeded expenses; this year, with a higher budget, we are \$6000 below what is needed to meet expenses.

With this in mind, please consider meeting your pledge and increasing giving if at all possible.

#### Statistical Report for March 2014

Budget for 2014	\$231,696.00
Budgetary needs through March 30, 2014	\$ 57,924.10
Our giving through 3/3/014	\$ 42,965.92
Investment Income	\$ 5,402.80
Rental Income (net)	<u>\$ 3,617.01</u>
Total	\$ 51,985.73
Amount <u>below</u> budgetary needs	\$ - 5,938.37

#### Average weekly giving by month

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
January	\$3050.76	\$4080.67
February	\$3057.82	\$3531.38
March	\$2727.57	\$3056.94

Stewardship Committee Chairperson

## **Passing The Baton**

Our new Financial Secretary is Ann Wallace. Bob Wilkenloh, who has recorded our offerings for the last four years, has decided to step down.

Bob, we thank you for taking time each week to keep track of all the giving. Well done.

Ann, we wish you the best as you begin a new role here.

Any questions or concerns regarding your record of giving should now be directed to Ann.

## **April Thank Yous**

April saw more activities and hours of investment in our church than we have seen for a long time. Many thanks to the following:

- Anna Mae & Priscilla for a moving Easter drama on April 6. It went well. Special thanks to Bob Gillis for the media support. And thanks to our cast Nick Hughes, Franklin Nale, Mike McManus, Justin Hughes, Sam Burgess, Bud Burgess, Bob Hudak, Chris Harvey, and to Libby and Kassie Little for special helps.
- Tina Harvey, Linda Gillis, and all who brought food for our church Easter party on that same day.
- Our contemporary singing group for the special music on April 13, Palm Sunday. It was greatly appreciated.
- Our men's group who conducted a great Good Friday service on April 18. Also, to Melvin and Leo who cooked a great breakfast. Special thanks to Neil Plum, Melvin Washington, and Vic Werner for all the special music.
- All the volunteers who worked on the Bakely House. Jenifer and Matt are happily moved in.
- All who volunteered on our church work day April 26. The place looks great.
- The deacons who had their bi-annual bereavement lunch on April 27. It went well.
- Those who helped with our Lenten Lunch on April 9. The soup and sandwiches were very good.
- Rev. Gerry for speaking at Evergreens on April 23. God bless you and Tina in the Czech Republic!
- Jan Jorgensen who helped prepare for Lent and Easter by setting up our Lenten Crosses, putting up shelves for flowers, and wrapping the cross in the front yard with wire for your cut flowers which decorated it on Easter Sunday.
- Our Chancel and Handbell Choirs for their part in our Resurrection Worship on Easter. The music was wonderful!



## **Golf Tournament May 18 At Mays Landing Country Club**

Our Golf Fundraiser on May 18th is just around the corner. Please see anyone on the committee or the church office to get a registration form. Diners, golfers & donations all use the same form. Credit cards will be accepted, however, the receipt will read Mays Landing CC (not a charitable donation) and the process will take longer.

Please make sure we get your email address so that we can send you an auction list prior to the event. Cash & checks are preferred payment for the auction.

We are so excited about this year's event. 50% of our net proceeds will be given to the Salvation Army. It's going to be a great night!!

Thank you all for your support!

~ Karen

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## **Trustees To Meet May 7**

The Board Of Trustees will meet again on May 7 at 7:00pm in the chapel. Be there if you are a trustee.

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On April 9th we hosted the Lenten Lunch at our church. There were approximately 90 people in attendance. The service went well and the food was delicious as always. Thank you to Lee Wolff and Leo Ransone for making the soup and to Leo for staying to help with preparing the food. Thank you also to those who helped set up, serve, and clean up. Also, thank you to the many hands that made either sandwiches and/or desserts. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our next 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Monthly Lunch, and our last one of the year, will be held on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Sunday brunches have already been concluded for the year, but we hope that everyone signed up and is going to the golf tournament on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The next big event will be held on May 3rd. We will be having a concert with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Gospel Choir performing. The cost is \$15 and the tickets are going fast. Please see Joanie Hoenes if you still need a ticket. All seats must be reserved in advance. There are two dinner seatings for the evening, one at 4:45PM and the other at 5:45PM.

We will be having our Annual Strawberry Festival on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be the same as last year, \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 years and under. John Channell and his friends from Albert Hall will be entertaining us again. We certainly hope you come out and join us for good food, good fellowship, and great entertainment. There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule to sign up to bring pound cakes, ice cream, and Cool Whip. Please sign up if you are able. Thank you!

In Christian Love and Fellowship, Dawn Duran, Chairperson

**Lunch Bunch To Travel To Olive Garden On May 7**

Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, May 7, at 11:30 to travel to The Olive Garden. Or meet us at the restaurant at noon.



**Men's Fellowship To Meet May 3**

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will meet May 3 at 8:30. Breakfast will be French toast. Cost is \$3.00.

**Van Leaves 7:00PM For Mainland Choral Society Concert May 16**

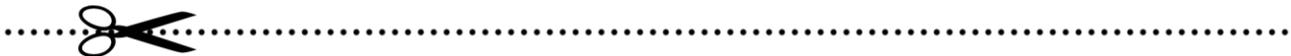
Some of us went to the spaghetti dinner last month at Christ Church in Somers Point to support the Mainland Choral Society.

On May 16 the van will leave at 7:00 to return to Christ Church on Shore Road for their spring concert.

Our own Vic and Anna Mae Werner plus Priscilla sing with this group. We are proud of them. Let's support them! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Evergreens Spring Luncheon May 28 at Smithville Inn**

Our Spring Luncheon will be held 12:00 Noon on May 28th at Smithville Inn, Smithville, NJ. All reservations must be in by May 21st. Please see Anita Brown (646-1102), Joanna Howell (383-9423) or Fran Weir (646-8461) if you have not yet made your reservation. All are welcomed to come to a nice gathering.



*Evergreens 2014 Spring Luncheon*

Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 12 NOON

Smithville Inn, Smithville, NJ

Menu Choices -- Choose one

Maryland Crab Cake	\$24.00
Smithville Chicken	\$23.00
Pan Seared Salmon	\$23.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Deadline: **May 21<sup>st</sup> (cash only)**

Call: Joanna Howell (383-9423) OR Anita Brown (646-1102)

Or see Fran Weir (646-8461)

A NOTE OF



I would like to thank every one for all the beautiful cards and thoughtful prayers for my speedy recovery. I could feel God's presence with me all the time.

Thank you,  
Carol Kleiner

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Dear Deacons:

The jelly beans, peanut butter crackers and chocolates were much appreciated but that pistachio bread must have been delivered by angels. Strange how quickly it disappeared!

Thank you  
Marge and Frank Loeb

### In Our Father's House

#### **Clarence Hook - 1928-2014**

Clarence Hook went home to be with the Lord on April 15. His funeral was at Adams Perfect on April 26, and he was buried in Trenton next to his first wife, Lois.

Clarence was a church officer in our church from 1997-1999. He was Property Chair, and oversaw the huge project to remove our old oil furnace and replace it with natural gas. He also oversaw the decommissioning of the old 4,000 gal. oil tank buried under our church parking lot.

Clarence loved people and was always interested in everyone. If he was your friend you had a friend for life.

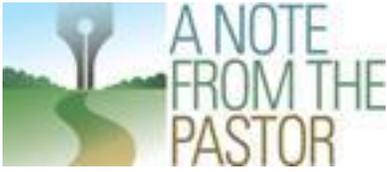
Let us be in prayer for his widow Adele and his two children, Judy and David.



### National Day Of Prayer May 1

The National Day Of Prayer will meet at the flagpole in front of Galloway Municipal Complex at Noon (12:10) on May 1.

Come and pray for our nation, our world, our community and our churches.



### Get Up And Run Again

“That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions...Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known...” ~ Luke 24:33,35

As I write this 32,000 runners have run the Boston Marathon. The American who won is the first American to win in 32 years. 4,000 security guards and dozens of helicopters and drones policed the area for any sign of another terrorist like the two brothers who exploded two pressure cooker bombs near the finish line last year.

For a while some wondered if the race would ever be as big or even continue. It was just too big to secure. Fear would kill it.

But instead “Boston Strong” banners appeared and a sense of New England pride drove people to heights they had never before experienced. Indeed, the stories are going around the world:

- Two brothers, only casual friends before the race, each lost their right leg and have spent a year growing closer in physical therapy. The one said “I have more joy today than at any time in my life.”
- Two doctors who stopped running to treat the wounded returned to finish the race. They needed closure. Their euphoria was evident.
- A woman who lost a leg joined the race for the last half mile running on a blade. Being part of the runners healed her spirit and stood in the face of terrorists.
- A newlywed couple who attended last year and had parts of their legs blown away competed in the handcycle division. The woman won and the man finished right behind her.
- The whole city of Boston was resurrected at the finish line. One reporter called it “A human tunnel of emotion.” Many cried as they ran past the place where the bombs went off. Together they came out stronger. The city, the race, the spirit, Patriot’s Day, are all stronger.

On the first Easter there was confusion, bewilderment and doubts that the Jesus movement could go on, but Jesus himself made the difference when He reappeared to His disciples. At first they didn’t know what to think. They began to recover, focus and believe on the road when they were on the move again. Two disciples were joined on the Emmaus Road by a stranger who turned out to be Jesus. It was later, in the “breaking of the bread” that they recognized Him and they were filled with joy and excitement. But they didn’t just sit there – they ran all the way back to Jerusalem (over two miles) to tell the others. “We have seen the Lord.” They were on the move, and soon all of them were, and on Pentecost the Church of Jesus was born.

Easter is not something to just contemplate. We experience it together in worship, in activity, in mission, in fellowship, in joyful celebration. Easter becomes real when the stories of the resurrected Christ in our lives overcame our hurts, our woundedness, our doubts, and motivate us to run again. Easter happens when we get up and run with the resurrected Jesus. Let’s be “Easter Strong” and run with Jesus!

*- Dave*

Lay Assistants

- 4 9:30 Dawn Duran  
11:00 Scott Sabo
- 11 9:30 Scott Sabo  
11:00
- 18 9:30 Lee Wolff  
11:00 Vic Abelson
- 25 9:30  
11:00 Priscilla Schultheis

Head Ushers

- 4 9:30 Vic & Rita Abelson  
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
- 11 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas  
11:00 Cheryl Hawkes, Shirley Smith
- 18 9:30 David & Naida Burgess  
11:00 Joanna Howell, Nancy Swank
- 25 9:30 Bob & Barbara Hudak  
11:00 Jean Delesantro, Shirley Smith

Collection (9:30)

- 4 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
- 11 Jack & Dee Heil
- 18 Bud Burgess, Justin Hughes
- 25 Roy Birkbeck, Greg Hamaty

Deacons for the Month

- 1<sup>st</sup> Svc Carol Jorgensen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Svc

Acolyte

- 4 Bobby Hudak
- 11 Ray Lewis
- 18 Sam Burgess
- 25 Kassie Little

Nursery

- 4 Fran Tanner
- 11 Jennifer Platt
- 18 Gloria Achamizo
- 25 Alice Malfi

Van Drivers

- 4 John Channell
- 11 Barb Hughes
- 18 Tina Brown
- 25 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

- 4 Maria Carreno, Olga Davies
- 11 Naida Burgess, Jean Delesantro
- 18
- 25 Dawn Duran, Betsy Eberhard

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 4 Set-up – Libby Little  
Cook – Ed Little  
Clean-up – Richard & Doris Wood
- 11 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki  
Cook – John Channell  
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
- 18 Continental Breakfast
- 25 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes  
Cook – Bryan Hawkes  
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

