

October 2014

Good News



Verse of the Month: *“We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*
~ Romans 8:37



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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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. *We offer our thanks to Pastors Cobb and Reedell for their spiritual leadership!*



Christian Education Committee

We are always excited when it is time to start another program year, and this year is no exception! There are a number of changes this year that we think will improve the programs for all of our youth. First, we will be starting Sunday School a few minutes later so that all youth can join their families in the Sanctuary for the first part of Worship service, including hearing the Bible lesson for the week. Second, we have implemented a brand new Sunday School curriculum, including Junior Bulletins available in the Sanctuary for younger children, and a new multimedia curriculum for our older youth that promises to use technology to engage them in new ways. Finally, the Lions & Lambs and A2J youth groups have been replaced with a series of special events that will be led by parent volunteers and coordinated by Tina Harvey.

The Christian Education Committee, the Sunday School staff, and all of our youth leaders and volunteers are looking forward to another excellent year of guiding and encouraging our youth as they each progress along their own walk with Christ. We thank you for your support, and remind you that we can always use volunteers willing to share their time and talents.

In His Service,
Scott Sabo
Christian Education Committee Chair



Sunday School And Related News For October

Rally Day was a huge success. Our theme for the year is THRIVE! The kids did a great job waving the living waters, and the congregation helped us keep the spirit up (balloons) and we all made a joyful noise. Thanks to Joanne Sabo for her inspiration and choreography and Linda Gillis for a delicious breakfast. We are blessed for all the teachers, aides, and kids that make our Sunday School program possible. We have a great team. We are grateful to our sponsors who have been very generous in their support of our program. Last but not least, thank you to Barbara Hughes who created our Thrive bulletin board downstairs. If you haven't seen it, you should come down to see just how creative she is. It is amazing!

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ Our second annual **TRUNK OR TREAT** is scheduled for Sunday, October 26th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 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. Admission will be a canned good for the Food Bank.

- ◆ Our **Christmas presentation** and the Birthday party for Jesus will be held on December 7, 2014. 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 Fellowship Sunday will be on October 5th, this is an opportunity for all the children to come together for some creativity, praising and fun. Grades PreK-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 to sign up.

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

In his Service,
Tina

New Members Classes In Progress

It's not too late to get involved with our New Members Class. Join us Sunday, Oct. 5, at 4:00 p.m. in the lounge. You will be glad you did.



Women's Circles

Our women's circles are honored to have the **Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz**, our Presbyterian Mission Co-worker in the Czech Republic, visit us this month. Gerry will not be giving the monthly Bible study so we can have plenty of time to hear of Karen's work as a bridge between the Evangelical Czech Brethren and the PC(USA). When I look at her schedule here in the U.S., I see she is spending more time with us here in Absecon than at any of her other church visits. Let's show our appreciation by coming to meet her and hearing of her activities.

The **Sarah Circle** will meet 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 8th, in Cobb Lounge. The **Martha Circle** will meet at the home of Carol Thomas Thursday, October 9th, at 10:00 a.m. The **Ruth Circle** will meet one week later than usual on Friday, October 10th, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betsy Cunius.

Every woman in the church is invited and encouraged to come and join us at any of the times or locations that best suit your schedule.

CARE BOXES FOR STUDENTS

Our women's circles will be making up care packages for all of our college students. We need profile information for each of our students so we can be sure to include everyone. Please return the following information to the church office through the offering plate or email absecon_presby@msn.com no later than **October 19!**

Please print clearly

Student Name: _____

College/University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthday: _____

Major: _____

Projected year of Graduation: _____





You may have noticed some changes in the worship schedule. We are trying to maximize the children's time in the sanctuary. By making these few changes they are able to jump right into their Sunday school lesson. Having the announcements in the beginning help to keep the Sunday school teachers, aids and parents informed. Thank you all for your support and understanding.

Please note that the communion date in Dec. will be changed so that we may enjoy the Christmas presentation on December 7.

Don't forget OCTOBER 12th! Karen Moritz will be preaching and Rick Dekarski will be our organist.

Anyone wishing to be on the Worship Committee, please see me.

Have a blessed month.

Karen Muldoon

World Communion To Be Observed Oct. 5

The first Sunday in October is set aside worldwide as World Communion Sunday. In this time of many world conflicts that put Christians at risk in the Arab world and elsewhere it is important to show our solidarity with our faith community everywhere.

See you at the Table! May God lead us to a new era of peacemaking.

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz To Return In October

Karen Moritz is our church supported missionary in the Czech Republic. There she served as a mission co-worker to help build relationships and facilitate mission work with Christian denominations. The main denomination, the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB) has 117,000 members and operated 32 Diaconal Centers that offer social services for children, seniors, and impoverished people.

Karen ran an educational conference in the spring that was attended by our own Tina Brown and Rev. Gerry Reedell who traveled to the Czech Republic.

Karen will be here from Oct. 6-13. She will speak to our women's circles and at both services on Oct. 12. Karen says the guiding scripture for her life is Luke 4:16-21 where Jesus proclaims the inauguration of God's reign whenever those on society's margins are served.

We look forward to hearing her speak on Oct. 12. She will be available between services to greet and answer questions.





Mission/Evangelism Committee

The CROP Walk is October 5th. It will begin and end at Heritage Park. If you haven't signed up to sponsor or walk and would like to, please do so. Sign up at the table in the vestibule.

At our September Mission Committee meeting we discussed an away mission trip. We would like to have three team leaders. We have two, we need one more. You do not need to be on the committee to head the team. Once we have the third person, and anyone interested in participating, David Rauer from Presbyterian Disaster Relief will come and meet with us to plan for a 2015 mission trip.

At our next meeting we will be putting together our 2015 budget.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless,
Russ Adkisson



CROP Walk to be Held October 5

CROP Walkers from our sister churches and our own will gather at the gazebo in Heritage Park at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, for our annual CROP Walk for hunger. The walk circles around Absecon and ends up back in the park where we started. 25% of the proceeds go to our local food bank, the rest to food relief through Church World Service.

Our church has supported this effort for over 40 years. Sponsor envelopes are available in the vestibule. Bobby Hudak is our chairman this year. Let's support him and this effort.

Last year we raised \$1,241.00. We can do even better this year. The need is great.



News From The Deacons

October 2014

The cooler weather is here, and October is when Deacons plan our Autumn/Winter activities. Deacons will continue to collect food items for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and will take the items directly to the Food Bank at the end of each month. Items most needed are: canned foods such as tuna, spam, chicken, ham, meaty soups, stews, chili, and any fruit. Shelf stable items like peanut butter (plastic jars only), powdered milk, rice, potatoes, cereal, and mac & cheese. For a complete list please go the web site www.cfbnj.org (Community Food Bank of New Jersey). We will also have a box for gently used jackets and coats.

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 throughout the summer months. Thank you! Thank you!

Have you noticed someone not at church? If so give them a call let them know they are missed. We are all in need of someone noticing. Spread your kindness!

The next Deacons meeting will be October 11 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

News From Our Missionaries

From Pastor Karen

Autumn has definitely arrived in Prague. The days have been beautiful and sunny and the nights crisp and cool. Leaves are beginning to change and fall. I love the autumn and hate it. I love the wonderful weather and the cool nights for sleeping but I hate it because I know winter is around the corner. Fortunately, this year I will enjoy some of this autumn weather in the US.

Shortly after the publication of this edition of the Absecon Good News I will be visiting you in person. Thanks to your generosity and Pastor Gerry's gracious hospitality I will be able to visit you during my upcoming Interpretation Assignment. Since learning, and remembering, Czech is such a challenge I have made arrangements with World Mission to come back to the US for 2 months each year instead of the customary 6 months following each 3 year term. I try to visit new congregations and presbyteries but I also really enjoy my return visits to congregations like yours. I look forward to telling you about life and ministry here in the Czech Republic since my visit last year. I'll try not to tell too many tales about Pastor Gerry and Tina but I will enjoy telling you about the Reformation Seminar they both attended, it was one of the highlights of this year. The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren is also busily preparing to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the celebration of Communion in "both kinds", the bread and the wine, which will take place on Oct. 12th. There has also been a lot of activity between the ECCB and the PCUSA and I look forward to telling you all about it. Pastor Gerry has graciously made arrangements for me to visit several PW circles and to preach on Sunday Oct. 12th.

I look forward to seeing all of you then.

S přáním Božího požehnání,

With wishes for God's blessings,
Karen

Rev. Dr. Karen R Moritz
PCUSA Mission Coworker
ECCB Central Church office
Ecumenical Department
Jungmannova 9 P.O. Box 466
CZ 111 21 Praha 1
Moritz@e-cirkev.cz
712-326-5163 US cell phone

The Story Continues . . . By Lisa Whitaker

I cannot really express to you the joy it was to arrive at the airport at 1:30am, after my plane was delayed by 3 hours, and have a group of staff and students jumping up and down as I walked out of the baggage claim area. They rushed over and hugged me and their faces were beaming! I could already tell that they had had a wonderful experience since the last time I had seen them in April. One of the young women greeting me was my ex-Communist friend who was so interested in the worldview teaching. (I shared about her in an earlier newsletter). Over the course of the school she told me how she had committed her life to Jesus and was excited for all God had for her in this next season of life. We sat down for a long talk one day, and she shared with me her ideas for the future. She explained to me that she has a desire to enter the area of arts and media. She said, "Do you realize how much the theatre influences our nation by the messages that are communicated through the plays and operas?" She went on to say, "There is so much propaganda and people believe it. If I can get into the media and theatre and begin to influence the writers and producers to create plays and operas that communicate truth, then that would impact the whole nation! She then looked at me and said, "What do you think of that idea, Lisa?"

I could only smile and sit there amazed at how God changes a person's life in such a short amount of time. I am so excited to see all that will take place in the coming months as this young woman along with the rest of the students step out into different areas of society to make a difference. One student is already committed to be a missionary in Bangladesh, several others will continue on with YWAM by taking a Bible school next year. This small group of students is one of thousands like them that are stepping out in new found faith and excited to make a positive impact on this world. Their love for God is contagious and they are willing to sacrifice much for the sake of the Gospel!

As I left this precious group again, there were tears and hugs and a promise to stay in touch. No doubt I will see some of them somewhere in the world as they continue in missions. I have come to realize that this world really is quite small and I end up running into friends in all kinds of places!

I look forward to returning to Croatia in October to follow up with yet another group making an impact in their corner of the world! Thank you for your prayers as I head off on October 3rd.

Love,
Lisa



Stewardship Committee Report

On any given Sunday it takes up to 65 people's efforts to put on two services, conduct Sunday School and serve food and refreshments. Maintaining our facilities, sponsoring our various activities, paying the salaries of our employees and providing supplies to sustain their efforts requires money. Stewardship requires that we ask all of you to contribute your time, talent and treasure. Due to our community outreach activities such as Family Fun Day and Movies Under the Stars we are quickly earning a reputation as a church where good things are happening all the time. Thank you to all who gave their time and talent to the events that make our church special. Giving is still running behind 2013 by \$20,000. Actual expenditures through August 31st are \$151,762 which is about \$4,000 below the budgeted amount for the

eight month period. Our investment income stands at \$22,818.36. All our rental units were occupied through August 31st but our net rental income slipped to \$9,570.45 due to property taxes being paid August 1st. Our cumulative giving to the General Fund as of August 31st is \$109,885.67. Ideally, we would be funding all our expenditures from our giving to the General Fund. We are dependent on our investment income and rental income to minimize our deficit. Our church needs your financial support through the end of the year to meet our goals. Please consider giving a little extra so we can become less dependent on our outside income to fund the budget. Thank you all for your generosity.

Average Weekly Giving by Month

	2014	2013
June	\$2,958.14	\$2,686.87
July	\$2,934.56	\$2,934.00
August	\$2,858.82	\$2,620.09

Kirk Conover
Stewardship Chair

September Thank Yous

September is our “start up” month, so dozens of people were involved in getting back to things we hadn’t done for three months like choir, Sunday School, youth groups, Sunday breakfast, etc. There were only a few people who were active in the spring who didn’t want to continue in the fall. We rejoice in your faithfulness year after year.

Special thanks is also due to the following:

1. Tina Harvey for a great start up push for our Sunday School. We have new curriculum and new bulletin boards in the Christian Ed. building. Special thanks to Barbara Hughes and others for helping with the bulletin boards.
2. Bob Gillis for setting up and running the equipment for our movie night on Sept. 12. Also, special thanks to Russ who brought the block and wood for the fire and to Tina for the S’mores, publicity, and supplying “The Lion King” DVD. It was a great event.
3. Dawn Duran, cooks, helpers, etc. for the yard sale on Sept. 20 on the end lot. It went well.
4. Kris Jenoriki for organizing details, Leo for organizing the food, and all who helped set up and serve our first brunch on Sept. 21. It was delicious. The pastor appreciated his birthday cake. Thanks to Dirk and clean up crew, too. Everything was cleaned up and put away by noon.
5. Jan Jorgensen and Jack Heil for helping the pastor take down the deck around his pool area. There’s a lot more to do.
6. Russ & Linda for stripping and waxing the floor in Madden Hall.
7. Bob & Bobby Hudak for CROP Walk leadership.

8. Tina Harvey for organizing the apple picking trip on Sept. 28.
9. Ellen Plum for working with our guitar students, The Chosen Few, who played on Sept. 28.
10. Many others who sing/play in Voices Of Praise, count offering, lead committees, help out with Sunday breakfast, yard work, cleaning up after events, etc. Together we make it happen!



Nominating Committee

We will be having a Nominating Committee Meeting on Monday, Oct 6th, in the Chapel at 7PM. It is time to start nominating those we feel would make excellent leaders of the church. Prayerfully consider serving as an elder, deacon, a trustee, or even a member of the new search committee, if you should get a call asking to fill one of these leadership positions. With the pastor leaving in the new year, many people may be concerned about the future of our church, and I believe this would be a great way to step up and become a leader. After all, WE ARE THE CHURCH, and with a strong leadership, we will continue to THRIVE! Be part of the future!

In the glory of His name,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



Property Committee Met September 16

The manse renovation was discussed and a Renovation Committee was formed. The goal for donations for the manse renovations is \$40,000. The last winter fundraiser collected around \$8,000. This winter fundraiser will be dedicated to manse renovations such as a new roof, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, painting and new flooring.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the sound system and the Power Point system. They look intimidating, but they are very simple to operate. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Hopefully we can get people to do a rotation of taking care of either job one Sunday each month.

The date has been set for the fall cleanup/work day on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9-12. Coffee, donuts, and other treats will be offered for the workers/helpers. This is done to take care of odd jobs before winter - cleaning gutters, windows, and a list of a few other odd jobs that pretty much anyone can do. We look forward to seeing everyone for fellowship and work to help keep our church beautiful.

The next Property Committee meeting is set for Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join. Contact me if anyone has any questions about the buildings or sees anything that they would consider a safety issue.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Hughes, Chairman

Fall Work Day Oct. 18 9-Noon



Fall work day is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th, from 9 am to 12 noon, and workers are needed to clean windows, weed and clean the flowerbeds at the church and manse, rake leaves, clean the kitchen and refrigerators, fertilize church yard, etc. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin in the foyer for everyone to sign up for a job!! Bagels, donuts and coffee will be provided for breaks. Hope to see many of you there!!

Thanks from the Property Committee



Our new phone notification system, One Call Now, is up and running. You should have received a test message by now via whichever method you chose (voice, e-mail or text). A message for opting into text notification also was sent. (Text ALERT to 22330 to sign up for text messages.) If you have not received a test message, please let Gay know. We have also set up notification "groups" for our committees, circles, etc. If you would like a new group added, please contact Gay.

The church will no longer be sending out post card reminders for meetings and events. We will be using our new system. This will be a great saving in postage some months and will also allow us to send multiple notifications/reminders - perhaps a day-of reminder in addition to an advance warning notification. It will be up to group leaders to determine the timing and frequency of messages for their group.

It's never too late to sign up! Opt-in forms are available [on our website](#) or from the church office.



Fellowship Committee

We are now getting back into full swing with our regular Sunday schedules. As of Sept 7th Breakfast started back up and refreshment hour moved back inside.

Our first Sunday Brunch of the year was held on September 21st. Many thanks to Kris Jenoriki and all her volunteers for a very successful brunch. Everything was delicious! It takes many hands to keep this enjoyable monthly event going, and we are always looking for help. Please contact Kris Jenoriki if you are able to help with our Sunday brunches. The areas for volunteers would include set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. Even if you could help in just one area, that would be a great help. If you sign-up to cook, there are reimbursement forms to help cover the cost of the ingredients. Our next Brunch will be held on Oct 19th. The cost is \$5.

Second Monday Monthly Lunches will start back up on Monday, Nov 10th. Please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet so that we have a head count. Also if you are off on Mondays and would like to volunteer to help please contact Karen Muldoon.

We had our Annual Church Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Thank you to everyone that helped that day! A special thanks to Reformation Lutheran Church for lending us some tables. Thank you to Dirk Williamson for cooking. Thanks to Dave Cobb, Bob Hudak, Jan Jorgensen, Priscilla Schultheis, Russ Adkisson, Dirk Williamson and a friend of the youth group, Dan (Dirk and Dan carried tables all the way from the end lot back to the church) for transporting tables. Thanks also to Priscilla Schultheis for arriving really early that morning(6:30 AM), Louise Speitel, Kenny Marshall, Carol Ann Kozimer, and Carol Ann's son Joseph who arrived shortly after to help me set up the table layout, to Priscilla and Rita Abelson for helping with the food area set-up, to Shirley Smith, Ginny Wolcott, Donna Hughes, Terri Villegas, Cheryl Hawkes, Marie Cronauer, and Denise Ott for helping with the food service, to Carol Thomas, Jean Delesantro, and Olga Davies for working the church table, and to Cheryl Hawkes, Rita & Vic Abelson, Terri Villegas, and Mike McManus for cleaning up. That's a long list so I hope I didn't forget anybody. Also, thank you to all who donated items for the church table. And of course a big thank you to all the people, both inside our church and outside our church, for renting the tables. I hope the day was profitable for all. You all helped make the day a big success. Between the table sales, the church table, and the food sales we brought in just over \$350. This was my first year organizing the yard sale and with a little bit of re-organization and the help of some more volunteers, next year's yard sale should go even smoother.

Things move along pretty quickly around here with our Annual Applefest coming up on Friday, Oct 10th. This event will be held in Madden Hall from 6 - 8 PM. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. The price includes a hotdog (with or without sauerkraut), an apple dessert with ice cream and whipped toppings, water, iced tea or coffee, and entertainment. Additional hotdogs will be available for sale at \$1 each. This year we will also be selling soda at 50 cents each. Also, the Arc Angels of Atlantic County will have a table set up to sell some fall scented candles. The entertainment for the evening will be provided by John Channell and his friends from Albert Hall.

Dec 6th will be our Congregational Concert. We will be having the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble join us as a special tribute to our own Handbell Choir Director, Jan Cobb. The cost is \$12 and the time for the concert is 7:30PM. Please purchase tickets in advance from Joanie Hoenes as soon as they become available. No seats will be reserved until the tickets are bought.

I hope to see you at as many events as possible.

Our next Fellowship meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, Nov 18th, in Cobb Lounge at 7PM.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



Lunch Bunch To Travel To Red Lobster Oct. 8

Lunch Bunch will meet at the church at 11:30 on Wednesday, Oct. 8, to travel to Red Lobster at the Hamilton Mall. Or meet us at the restaurant at noon.



Men's Fellowship To Meet Saturday, Oct. 4, At 8:30

The Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast and fellowship on Oct. 4. Breakfast will be pancakes. Cost is \$3.00.



**Sunday Brunch
October 19, 2014**

Split Pea and Ham soup – Kris Jenoriki

Quinoa Salad – Naida Burgess

Fruit Salad – Denise Ott

Ham

Au Gratin potatoes

Grilled vegetable platter

Egg Soufflé

Salmon cakes with dill sauce

Grits

Pineapple Upside Down cake – Shirley Smith

Pie – Tina Brown

Cookies – Kris Jenoriki



Evergreens Meet At Noon October 22

Evergreens will meet for their sandwich luncheon on Wednesday, October 22nd at noon. Come for fellowship, fun-program will be announced later.

Second Monday of the Month Lunch November 10!

2nd Monday of the Month Lunch is starting up November 10th. The sign up sheet will be up in October.

We truly **NEED YOUR HELP!!!** Anyone wishing to help set up, clean up or serve please see myself or Loretta.

Thank you
Karen Muldoon

Pastor & Mrs. Cobb To Be In Colonial Williamsburg Week Of Oct. 12

Pastor and Mrs. Cobb have arranged a time share swap the week of Oct. 12. They will, however, be in church on Sunday, Oct. 12, and Sunday, Oct. 18.



Mark your calendars NOW for

*Saturday, December 6, 2014
7:30 p.m.*

When we will HOST, in concert...

T - H - E



*Sponsored By Your Fellowship Committee
\$12 Adults - \$5 18 and under*

*(No dinner or dessert reception this time
to give our very hard workers a "Christmas Break")*

The entire evening is dedicated to

Jan Cobb

for her faithful years as the devoted leader of our own inspiring Handbell Choir!





On September eleventh 2001 so many watched as two planes flew into the Twin Towers that day
It's so hard to believe that someone would want to take so many lives away
It was so hard to believe what was happening right before your eyes
So many that were in the towers that day just must have screamed and cried.

Another plane crashed into the Pentagon not long after on that day too
The people inside the building were running around not knowing what to do
Another plane had taken off from Pittsburgh the people fought to stay alive
So many just prayed and cried as the plane went down but no one survived.

We'll remember on this day so many children that had lost their lives
We'll remember all of the husbands and all of the wives
And all of our friends who suffered such a terrible death
When the towers had fallen that day there were only a few that were left.

There were so many innocent people killed on that day that you can never forget it's true
So many firemen and policemen tried to save everyone, they had their job to do
Some went into the building facing danger and never came out, putting their life on the line But all they could
think of was saving as many as they could that's what was on their mind.

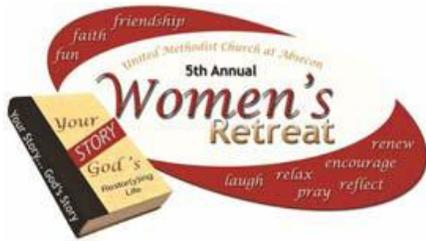
After all of these years that have gone by we will always remember
That horrible day so many lives were lost on the eleventh of September
As time goes on things get a little softer in your heart they say
But we will never forget what had happened on that terrible day.

Now they have built a memorial in their memory with a water falls that flows down
Everyone that goes there remembers what happened as they look around
The pain in their heart and all of their sorrows just never ends
As they think of their husbands, wives, children and all of their friends.

9-11-01

By
Dee and Jack Heil

GOD BLESS AMERICA



Keynote Speaker ~ Lisa Whitaker

When

Friday, Nov. 14th
Saturday, Nov. 15th
Sunday, Nov. 16th

Where

Bird-in-Hand Family Inn
2740 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505
www.Bird-in-Hand.com

Costs

Double Room* - \$182 per person

Triple Room* - \$147 per person

Reservation deadline: Wed., Oct. 22nd

Registrations can not be accepted after that date.

*All rooms have 2 double queen beds, coffee maker + refrigerator.

Detach and return form to The UMC at Absecon, NJ

Attn: UMW, 100 Pitney Rd., Absecon, NJ 08201

Contacts: Sue Reitmeyer (652-1390 or sjreitmeyer@verizon.net)

Barbara Sabath (646-3271 or sabathsabby@gmail.com)

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Double Room—My Roommate is _____

Triple Room—My Roommates are _____

**includes 2 breakfast smorgasbords, 1 dinner smorgasbord, room, tax, gratuity & materials



“Can We Talk?”

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ~ Luke 2:29-32

Yes, I finally did it. After years of saying I was getting ready to retire I finally gave notice the beginning of September. My last day will be Dec. 31. The trustees have graciously given us until the end of January to get out of the manse. Our “new” house on Ridgewood Ave. is ready for us to move in. In September we moved many boxes. We also took down the pool and part of the deck. The stage is set for us to move on.

The late Joan Rivers, who worked until she died and never got a retirement, is famous for the phrase “Can we talk?” and then go on to talk about a serious subject in a hilarious way. All kidding aside, these are some of the questions I keep hearing, and here are the best answers I can come up with:

1. Why now? – On Sept. 23 I turned 66. I am vested in the pension, eligible for social security, and will have some investment income. I have five grandchildren, a house in the Poconos, and reasonably good health. But my older brother was treated for prostate cancer last year, my younger brother is now a diabetic, and my younger sister died of cancer two years ago. Jan’s sister also died of cancer. The clock is ticking. When I walk through the cemetery I am reminded of the words of many I buried – “Live your life while you can - travel, enjoy, learn, while you are healthy enough.” (None ever told me to spend more time in the office.) God has richly blessed me with a great life, wife, and career. But I have had to do my part and seize the moment. I believe this is my time to move on. 34 years is long enough.
2. How do you feel? – Ambiguous, anxious, excited for what is next. Getting older. Sad to be leaving so many groups, good times, relationships, etc. Anticipating new things. A little scared, but change is always frightening when we don’t know what lies ahead. I’m starting to get used to it.
3. But what will you do? – Anything I want. Some volunteer work, travel, spend time at the cabin. Babysit grandchildren. Projects. I may eventually go back to work. It depends on God’s guiding. He’s not done with me yet. Everyone tells me I’ll be just as busy. I hope not.
4. What are you thinking? – My mind is filled with a million details. We have to sort out and move a lifetime of stuff. Our children’s art projects, old photos, etc. all have memories. We also have to decide if we want to move them. Our new house is smaller than the manse. We have to downsize. Think about that.
5. What will happen to the church? – Whatever you make happen. When ministers leave a new leadership often emerges. People step up. This is a chance for you to demonstrate you care about the people you worship God with. Churches define themselves when the pastor leaves. The Presbytery will provide leadership and the committees still function. Worship and programs continue. But what happens is up to you.

6. Will we see you again? – Probably. I will only be two miles away. But I will not be allowed to participate in worship, leadership decisions, visioning, etc. So don't call me up to ask what I think of something at church. But I like to talk about my grandchildren, my boat, and my life. As time goes on, I may be able to see more of you. We'll see. I've been pastor here so long it may be better for me to keep some distance. You need to get me out of your system so you can work well with new leadership.
7. What do you want us to do now? – Keep coming. Stop acting like I have a terminal illness. Be optimistic. Congratulate me on retiring. Expect good things to happen. Look for what God has in store next. Be glad God is in charge. He is, you know. He has a plan. We all need to find it.

See you in church.

- Dave



Lay Assistants

- 5 9:30
11:00
- 12 9:30
11:00
- 19 9:30
11:15
- 26 9:30
11:00

Head Ushers

- 5 9:30 Vic & Rita Abelson
11:00 Joanna Howell, Leslie Harvey
- 12 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
- 19 9:30 Ilsa Smith, Barbara Hughes
11:15 Jean Delesantro, Tina Brown
- 26 9:30 Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd

Collection (9:30)

- 5 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
- 12 Dee & Jack Heil
- 19 Ginny Davenport, Edith Budd
- 26 Jan & Carol Jorgensen

Deacon for the Month (9:30)

- 1st Svc Mae Sterling

Acolyte

- 5 Maddie Lewis
- 12 Justin Hughes
- 19 Terri Villegas
- 26 Chris Harvey

Nursery

- 5 Gloria Achamizo
- 12 Alice Malfi
- 19 Fran Tanner
- 26 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

- 5 John Channell
- 12 Barb Hughes
- 19 Tina Brown
- 26 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

- 5 Ilsa Smith, Jennifer Platt
- 12 Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
- 19 Join us for brunch!
- 26 Dawn Duran, Tina Brown

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 5 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
- 12 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
- 19 Join us for brunch!
- 26 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

Counter Schedule

- 5 Leo Ransone, Nancy Conover
- 12 Jerry Hoenes, Betsy Torjussen
- 19 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover
- 26 Debbie & Don Wong

