

March 2015

Good News



Verse of the Month: "To you O Lord, I lift up my Soul; in you I trust, O my Lord, O my God." Psalm 25:1-2



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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2015 Newsletter Postage Fees Due

**FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE**

Final Notice: Postal fees for the 2015 Good News home delivery are now due. Payment of \$10.00 must be submitted to the church office as soon as possible.

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



Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 8

Be sure to turn your clocks one hour ahead before you go to sleep on Saturday!



Winter Storm Warnings

We do not advertise on radio or TV, but we do have One Call Now! You may get a message advising you of cancellations in the event of bad weather. In any case, call the office if you are uncertain. We will try to keep the church answering machine up to date.

If you feel uncertain about coming in the snow, you have our permission to stay home.

(If you have not yet signed up for auto-notifications and would like to receive these messages please call the office!)



Sunday School and Related News for March

The children have entered into the winter curriculum and our learning about our Savior and his journey to share the gospel. Our movie night was moved to February 27th and looks to be a great time. The annual event Pennies for Pins will be held on March 8th thanks to JoAnn Sabo who once again has graciously volunteered her talents. We also have been blessed by Priscilla Schultheis who has stepped up to direct this year's Easter program "The Other Wise Man". Please see Priscilla if you would like to participate. Thank you JoAnn and Priscilla!

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ❖ March 8th the Sunday School will be bowling for a cause with the annual event Pennies for Pins. We are asking all kids to bring a friend. Keep an eye on the bulletins for details.
- ❖ Movie night will be February 27th at 6:00 pm in Madden Hall. We will make our own pizza, enjoy popcorn and have some fun. The movie will be announced soon.

- ❖ March 22nd will be our annual Easter drama and Egg Hunt. Sign-up sheets for the pot luck luncheon and Egg filling will be up in Madden Hall beginning February 27th.

Our Sunday School is in need of volunteers; please check your calendars and your hearts!

In His Service,
Tina

Christian Readers Book Club Wednesday, March 18, 6:30

The Christian Readers Book Club will be meeting on March 18, 2015. We'll be meeting in the Cobb lounge at 6:30. We'll be discussing the book Philomena by Martin Sixsmith.



Women's Circles

This year as we study II Corinthians, we find that Paul established a flourishing church made up of a cross section of the worldly minded people who flocked to Corinth to participate in the gambling, legalized temple prostitution, business adventures and amusements available in a first-century port town.

These were the people who eventually made up the Corinthian church. They had to learn to live together in harmony, although their national, social, economic and religious backgrounds were very different. Corinth was probably not a place where one would have expected the church to flourish. Yet it was precisely here that Paul enjoyed one of his most successful ministries and also here that he experienced some of his greatest challenges with early converts to Christianity.

The **Sarah Circle** will meet in Cobb Lounge at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 4th. (**Note that we are meeting one week earlier than usual.**) The **Ruth Circle** will meet at the home of **Cathy Guenther** at 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 6th. The **Martha Circle** will meet at the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 12th. Please join us for fellowship and Bible study at the circle that will best meet your time schedule. You will be warmly welcomed.



Nursery Volunteers Needed

Our volunteer list for nursery rotation could use some additional names. If you are willing to be available if needed in the nursery please sign up with Jennifer Platt.



Worship News

First, I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this transition so smooth. Thanks to the congregation for making the guest Pastors feel welcome. Thanks to the lay assistants for leading the Worship. And THANK YOU Scott & Bob. What an excellent job you both did. We have plenty more Pastors coming in March. (We should have our interim soon). March 1st, communion Sunday, Reverend Morschauer will be here.

Here is the communion schedule that was approved by Session: Jan. 4, 2015 // Feb. 1st // March 1st // none in April // May 3rd //

JUNE 14TH // JULY 12TH // AUG. 9TH Communion will be held the 2nd Sunday of the month during the summer // Sept 6th // Oct. 4th // Nov. 1st // none in Dec. //
Jan. 3, 2016 // Feb 7th // March 6th

The lay assistant schedule for March is: 3/1 Lee & Dawn, 3/8 Kirk & Linda, 3/15 David & Priscilla, 3/22 Leo, 3/29 _____? & Dawn.

Have a Blessed month,
Karen Muldoon

March Pulpit Supply

March 1 – Rev. Scott Morschauer
March 8 – Rev. Robert Reader
March 15 – Bob Gillis
March 22 – 10:00 worship with Easter play
March 29 - TBA

Lenten Worship Schedule

Once again this year we will be joining in worship with our sister churches from Absecon and Galloway during this season of Lent. Lenten Lunches will be held each Wednesday at noon following the schedule below. Service is about 30 minutes followed by a soup and sandwich lunch provided by the host congregation.

The Holy Thursday Communion will be 7:00 p.m. at Absecon United Methodist Church.

Lenten Lunch schedule:

March 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
March 11: St. Mark & All Saints Episcopal
March 18: Absecon Presbyterian
March 25: Reformation Lutheran

2015 Flower Chart



The 2015 Altar Flower chart is hanging in the vestibule. If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the altar on any Sunday 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

The **Bakely House** is in good shape. Our current family will be staying through June. After that we'll be looking for a new family to take up residence there.

Our committee met with Barbara Sabath, president of the Atlantic County chapter of **Family Promise**, to further discuss this program that cares for homeless children and their families. Let me explain what this program is about.

Families that qualify for this program are screened carefully. We would host up to 14 people at a time four times a year. This could be a combination of 3 or 4 families. The families would leave our church by 7 am daily and head to the Day Center. From there, daycare is provided for little ones and school age children are bussed to their schools. Adults receive assistance to restore housing and financial stability. Families would return to us at 5:30 pm to prepare dinner and participate in evening activities such as homework, games, crafts, and movies. In addition to our own people, we thought some high school students from Holy Spirit or Absegami might like to help out with the kids. The families settle down for the night between 9:00-10:00 pm. There will always be a minimum of two members from our own congregation with the families including two who will spend the night.

Family Promise requires 13 churches to sign on to get this program up and running in our county. So far there are 11 local churches that have made the commitment. We could be the 12th. We are all aware of the difficulties many families are experiencing in this area with the closing of several casinos. The committee felt that we have the facility, personnel, and financial resources to become a host church. Family Promise meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Methodist Church. Anyone is allowed to attend.

Health kits continue to be collected in the vestibule through the end of March. A list of supplies is attached to the collection box and included in Sunday bulletins. We send these kits to Church World Service who sends them to areas that have been struck by disasters like Hurricane Sandy or the typhoon in the Philippines. Last year we produced over 100 kits. Let's try to top that.

Our **One Great Hour of Sharing** was kicked off on February 22. We'll have Minutes for Mission on March 8th and March 22nd. We will collect all fish banks and envelopes on Palm Sunday (March 29) and Easter (April 5.)

We are also looking into having a **weekend retreat** sometime this year. It could be in the spring, summer, or fall. The last retreat we had took place at Keswick over a 4th of July weekend and was coordinated by Laurie McManus. She is currently getting in touch with Keswick to look into possible weekends. This would be a great time to strengthen our ties.

We are also exploring opportunities for away **mission trips**. Five members of this committee have expressed their desire to lead a mission team. Alice Smith, coordinator for numerous mission trips in the past, has returned to the committee and will assist with organization. We'll keep you posted about local and away mission opportunities.

We set the date for this year's **Family Fun Day**. It is scheduled for August 15 from 12:00-4:00 pm. The rain date is August 22nd.

Our **next meeting** will take place on Saturday, March 14th at 9:30 am in Cobb Lounge.

News from the Czech Republic

By Rev. Dr. Karen R. Moritz

PCUSA Mission Coworker in Prague

A Musical Beginning

One of the customs, in the Central Church Office of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) where I work, which always touches me is how we begin meetings. Like our church meetings in the US we begin each meeting with prayer which is done in the form of a short devotion. However, before the devotion and prayer we sing. The person leading the meeting or doing the devotion chooses a song from one of the two hymnbooks used in the ECCB. If it is a meeting with guests who speak a language other than Czech we often sing a hymn from our international hymnbook "Colours of Grace."

But, what often touches me is when I am sitting in my office, which is on the opposite end of the hall from our meeting room, and I hear singing. I may not know who's meeting or why but I know that a group of people has gathered and they are prayerfully beginning their meeting with a song. Of course this may touch me because I love music and I love to sing. It touches my heart and makes me pause for just a moment to be aware of God's presence. One thing I love about singing in Czech is that one sings exactly what one sees. The challenge, singing so many consonants in a row! Many of the hymns come from the Geneva Psalter and they have an elegant simplicity. It really is a beautiful way to invoke a sense of God's presence, for those in the meeting and for those of us who get to listen from the outside.

During this holy season of Lent may all of us find ways to be aware of God's presence. Whether it comes in a song, a prayer, or simple moments of quiet peace, may we each be touched by God's love and presence. And hopefully, we will be able to share a sense of God's love and presence with one another.

Thank you for all the many ways in which you share God's love and presence with me. I am so grateful and I know our brothers and sisters in the ECCB are grateful as well.

S přáním Božího požehnání,

With wishes for God's blessings,

Karen

When the Headlines Get Personal

What happens when you know the people the news is reporting about - when headlines and news feeds are about your friends? I was struck with this thought the other day when I picked up a copy of a magazine I receive about the persecuted church around the world. I was literally thumbing through it, not reading the articles, just looking at pictures and I see the face of a baby. Not just any baby, a baby I had played with and held. It was like someone had slapped me in the face. What was his picture doing in this magazine? I then began to read the article and sure enough, it was a family I had just spent some time with. It was a Central Asian family that had converted to Christianity and had been harshly persecuted by their own family. When I say harshly persecuted, I mean beaten, held captive and even lost their 2 year old son to murder, all at the hands of their fathers who were livid that they had converted. This amazing couple had paid a very high price in proclaiming their faith in Jesus.

As I read the story in the magazine, I was so moved. I ate breakfast with this couple, visited with them,

worshipped with them. I knew they had a story, I did not know the extreme pain and sacrifice of their story. They were not quick to share the painful details, maybe because it was too raw to share, maybe because fear was still lurking at their doorstep. What if they share with the wrong people?

As we walk through this season of Lent, I am thinking about those who don't need dates on a calendar to remind them of sorrow and sacrifice. They don't need to consciously give up candy or coffee because they have already given up so much more. The ironic part of this, is they have sacrificed so much for their faith and yet when I visited with them, they were so grateful - so grateful for Jesus, so grateful for a family of believers, so grateful to not have to look over their shoulder, so grateful that their second son, the one I held in my arms, will live in a very different world than their first son died in.

Please take a minute and join me in praying for this family. *** Since they fled to freedom, they have been given news of another family member killed for his faith - a brave 13 year old, the wife's younger brother.

I recently read a quote from one of my favorite authors, Ann Voskamp. She said, "When you "behead" a dandelion in full head, you send a thousand more out in the wind". I continue to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world, not just those I know, but also those whom I will only meet one day in eternity. We are part of an amazing, brave, courageous, eternal family. Please keep in mind, that when you hear or read the headlines, they are so much more than a passing news item. Let's all pray that the unjust deaths of this couple's firstborn son, of their brave 13 year old brother and so many others like them, will cause dandelion seeds of faith to spread and sprout both here and in eternity!

Thank you for your amazing support in all I do - please also pray that as I go, I will be a blessing to our family around the world, as well as continue to invite others to join our family!

Lots of blessings,
Lisa

***If you want to hear more about this family, feel free to ask me, I have omitted some details for their safety.



Thanks You's For February

Church life has been settling into a new "normal routine" this past month, which is a good thing. There were still times, though, when extra hands were needed. Many thanks to those listed below (and any others I might have missed).

Russ & Linda, Kirk, Dan & Vic all came to the rescue when a water pipe in the chapel heating system blew. Once the First Responders from Absecon Fire Dept. cleared the area (thanks, Jeff Thomas!) and helped clean up some of the puddles, our group moved in to finish drying the room. Vic made the necessary repairs. We are glad to say there was very little damage.

Russ & Jan broke up some ice that was clogging a downspout in the Stopfer building. This was causing a back-up on the roof resulting in some leaks. Jan also replaced a few ceiling tiles in the daycare center which had been water stained.

Dan checked a few other downspouts and found more ice after another classroom had a few water marks. He's addressing any further issues.

Barbara and Boys came in to shovel sidewalks and spread some ice melt on snow days.

John and Jan put up our two Lenten crosses, one outside and one in the sanctuary.

Note: Two downstairs classrooms will need ceilings painted. If you are willing to help, see Dan.



Pastoral Transition

Transition Update

Session has reviewed information from several candidates for the interim position. They have been listening to sermons and will begin interviewing candidates and calling references soon. They are working hard to keep to their timeline of having someone in place by the end of March.

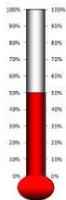
Audit Report

A complete financial review was conducted by John Murray, CPA of Murray & Becker, Pleasantville, NJ. We now have a complete accounting of the church's assets and liabilities. This provides us with an accurate baseline moving forward. The books were in good order with no discrepancies identified and our internal accounting procedures were found to be in good order.

Nancy Conover, Chairman
Finance Committee

Treasurer On Vacation

Our treasurer will be out of town March 1-16. For financial assistance please leave a note in her mailbox or a message on her home answering machine and she will assist you as soon as she is able.



Winter Fund Raiser

As of Sunday, February 22, our total raised for our Winter Fund Raiser is \$17, 280. Painting has begun at the manse, and new kitchen cabinets and flooring have been ordered. It's not too late to make a donation. Many thanks for your support!

Building Security

We all need to heighten our awareness when we are leaving the building, especially if we are the last group of the day. Did we turn off lights, check bathrooms, check that all outside doors are locked, and turn down thermostats in unused classrooms? We no longer have the luxury of someone who walks by every night during their evening constitutional to check the building. It is up to us to be safe and conserve. Please do your part.

The City of Absecon police/fire and Schuler Security (the company that monitors the fire alarms) need a contact person from the church. Dave's number is still on file with both. This person should be someone relatively close to the church - less than a mile. If you are willing to take on this responsibility please call the office. (The city has a key and can access the building in an emergency. You would not be responsible to come and unlock the doors.)



Fellowship Committee

The second soup sale of the year was held on Feb 8th. Thank you to all that made soup, helped with selling the soup, and all those who bought soup. We realized a profit of \$485 on this sale. That makes just over \$1,000 between both sales.

Our next event will be the Lenten Lunches. Our church will be hosting the Lenten Lunch on March 18. Please sign up if you are able to make sandwiches or desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule, and we are asking that if you make sandwiches to please pre-cut your loaf of sandwiches and have all items to the church no later than 11 AM on March 18th. Thank you in advance for your support and donations.

Second Monday Monthly Lunch will be held on Mar 9th and Brunch will be held on Mar 15th. We are also planning on having a covered dish sometime soon to meet and greet the interim pastor. Please be on the lookout for more information on this as we are still in the process of hiring someone. Our next fellowship meeting is TBA.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



No March Evergreens or Lunch Bunch – See You at the Lenten Lunches!

Evergreens has been canceled for March 25th as the Lenten Lunch is being held the same day at Reformation Lutheran Church. Hope to see you all there.

We will meet in April.

Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in March as well. In April we will head to Ye Olde Mill Street Pub in Mays Landing.

Join us at the Lenten Lunches!



Sunday Brunch, March 15 at 10:30

Plan on joining us for Sunday Brunch following the 9:30 service on March 15! Cost for brunch - \$6 per person. Fun and Fellowship - priceless.

Cheese omelet made to order...Ed Little

Bacon...Dirk Williamson

Sausage

Spiral Ham...Leo Ransone

Beef Barley Soup...Bryan Hawkes

Steak Fries

Veggie Casserole...Donna Hughes

Raw Vegetable Platter with Dip...Cheryl Hawkes

Desserts by Nancy Sooy, Dirk Williamson and Harold Hawkes



Community News

The Absecon Women's Club will have a soup and salad lunch in Madden Hall on Wednesday, March 11, from Noon – 3pm. Local artist, Bonnie Cavalier, will be giving an art lesson for all who attend. Cost is \$35. See Donna Hughes for more information.



Lay Assistants

01 9:30 Lee Wolff
11:00 Dawn Duran
08 9:30 Kirk Conover
11:00 Linda Gillis
15 9:30 David Burgess
11:15 Priscilla Schultheis
22 10:00 Leo Ransone
29 9:30
11:00 Dawn Duran

Head Ushers

01 9:30 Vic & Rita Abelson
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro
08 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
11:00 Jean Delesantro, Tina Brown
15 9:30 Bryan & Vicky Hawkes
11:15 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
22 10:00 Leslie Harvey, Ilsa Smith
29 9:30 Naida & David Burgess
11:00 Betty Lloyd, Mary Bew

Collection

01 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
08 Jack & Dee Heil
15 Greg Hamaty, Ginny Davenport
22 Bob Wilkenloh, Roy Birkbeck
29 Edith Budd, Betty Price

Deacon for the Month

1st Naida Burgess

Acolyte (9:30)

01 Franklin Nale
08 Kassie Little
15 Jordan Hawkes
22 Justin Hughes
29 Bud Burgess

Nursery (11:00 Terri Villegas, Mike McManus)

01 Jennifer Platt
08 Fran Tanner
15 Jordan Hawkes
22 Gloria Achamizo
29 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

01 John Channell
08 Barb Hughes
15 Tina Brown
22 Vic Abelson
29 Ed Little

Refreshment Hosts

01 Leslie Harvey, Greg Hamaty
08 Ginny Davenport, Carol DeLaurentis
15 Join us for Brunch!
22 Pot-luck Lunch & egg hunt
29 Jackie Bhatti, Tina Harvey

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

Breakfast at 9:00 on Single Service Sundays

01 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
08 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
15 No Breakfast - join us for Brunch!
22 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
29 Set-up – Linda Adkisson
Cook – Russ Adkisson
Clean-up – Gayle Ackerman

Counter Schedule

01 Lee Wolff & Kirk Conover
08 Debbie & Don Wong
15 Barbara & Bob Hudak
22 Steve & Ginny Schwab
29 Judy & David Stebbins



Absecon Presbyterian Church's

4th Annual Golf Tournament

Save the date!

May 17, 2015

Greate Bay Country Club

901 Mays Landing Road
Somers Point, NJ

\$125/golfer

Includes Hot-dog-lunch & Dinner

12:30 pm Registration

1:30 pm Shot Gun Start

Hole-in-One New Chevrolet

sponsored by Bennett Chevrolet

Not a golfer? Join us for Dinner, Auction & Door Prizes for \$35

For more information, please call our church office **609-641-3759**

Absecon Presbyterian Church is a **501(c)(3)** organization