

*May 2015*

# *Good News*

**Verse of the Month:** *“The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer.” 1 Peter 3:12*



*The Presbyterian Church at Absecon*

*208 New Jersey Avenue*

*Absecon, New Jersey 08201*

*Phone: 609-641-3759 Fax: 609-641-5125*

*Office email: [absecon\\_presby@msn.com](mailto:absecon_presby@msn.com) - Website: [abseconpresby.org](http://abseconpresby.org)*



**Dear Friends,**

I am guessing that after 34 years it might seem strange to have a different person writing a pastoral letter to you. I am in Absecon to serve as a bridge as you transition to a new called pastor.

As I mentioned during the worship service this past Sunday, Interim Pastors are like the pilots that used to work on riverboats on American waterways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We are not the captains that serve long-term on any trip, but we are here on the bridge during the transitional parts of the trip where the river gets treacherous. We know where the eddies and bad currents lie and where sunken rocks could rip out the keel of the boat. We help the riverboat (church) navigate through that part of your journey and then get off the boat and board the next boat in transition.

I will probably do things a little differently than the pastor that you knew. That is also part of the process.

I do take most Mondays off. One of the things I do on those days is to study through the internet where I can take classes from universities all over the world. I have studied the fall of Jerusalem at the hands of Babylon from Tel Aviv University, Clinical psychology of children from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and at the moment, Linguistics and language origins from Leiden University in Holland.

I mention this only because of something I learned about language and the way we sometimes don't communicate as the result of misreading each other. For example, some languages have only two terms for color, dark and light. Some have three; dark, light and red. There are variations in English such as mauve and scarlet to describe colors. How could we describe "mauve" to someone who only understands light and dark?

My point is simply this: part of our task together over the next 18 to 22 months is to work on communicating the truth of which we are stewards. That truth is the Gospel. How can we translate that good news and how can we translate the ways by which we develop a long-term vision for the Church so that truth can be communicated?

As we work together let us commit to being aware that we might need to stop and see if we are still fully understanding each other.

Someone asked me to give a short biography to let you know who I am. People ask if I am liberal or conservative. My answer is this: I am a sinner redeemed by God through Jesus Christ. All the rest is background. I have added a brief biography elsewhere in this newsletter in answer to that request.

Enjoy the season and I will see you in church.

Grace and peace,  
Tom Purchase  
Interim Pastor

**Brief Bio  
Thomas B. Purchase, Jr.**

- Served Churches in South Dakota Presbytery as Pastor
- Served churches in Dakota Presbytery, (non-geographical ethnic Native American Presbytery), as Interim Pastor

- Served Central Presbyterian Church, Zanesville, Ohio
- Director of ecumenical Social Service agency with 20,000 clients in Ohio
- Directed Habitat for Humanity Affiliate
- Not For Profit Developer in New Jersey
- Directed redevelopment project in Salem, New Jersey
- Built 4.7 million dollar Community Center in Salem, New Jersey
- Interim Pastor of 8 churches in West Jersey Presbytery, (Willingboro, Cedarville, Beverly and Glassboro, Haddon Heights First, Barrington First, Christ Presbyterian Church in Marlton, and Absecon Presbyterian Church),
- Former Chair of the New Church Development Committee of the West Jersey Presbytery
- Tres Iglesias Super commission from Monmouth, New Brunswick and West Jersey Presbyteries
- West Jersey Presbyterian Disaster Assistance team
- Group intervention counselor
- Certified in conflict management, University of Notre Dame
- Mediator, Victim Offender Reconciliation Program
- Drug and Alcohol abuse counselor
- Managing Partner, Purchase, Liebermann and Blair, PA, Foundation consultants
- Former Chaplain, US Army
- Presently, Chaplain, NJ State Naval Guard, temporarily attached to US Army 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion, 254<sup>th</sup> Combat Arms Regiment at Sea Girt, later attached to 78<sup>th</sup> division, 1st infantry battalion, 254<sup>th</sup> combat arms regiment.
- Former breeder of Arabian and Quarter horses.

Married to the former Rebecca Blair-5 children, 2 Great Danes.

Amateur cellist and classical guitarist...only the dogs are my audience.



## **Sunday School and Related News for May**

The Sunday School opened our worship on Palm Sunday with the news that Jesus was coming! Immediately following the kids shared their love by making Hygiene kits for those in need. On Easter Sunday they learned about Jesus dying for our sins and how we need to be cleansed. Through the clever direction of JoAnn Sabo the kids carved Jesus name in two bars of soap one for themselves and one for a friend. We are encouraging the kids to be “fishers of men” by bringing a friend to church. For every friend that is brought a treat will await the young disciple of Swedish fish or goldfish.

### **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.

- ◆ On **May 3, 2015** the Sunday School will host “**Freedom USA**”. This event will be held at 7 pm at the end lot. Check out the flyers around the church for details.
- ◆ **May 15, 2015** will be another Movie Night under the Stars!!!! Save the date details to follow.
- ◆ **June 7<sup>st</sup>** we will recognize our young people along with our teachers and aides with certificates for attendance and other achievements throughout the year.
- ◆ **June 20, 2015** we will be having a field day with games, prizes, food and fun. Come on out!
- ◆ 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



### **Women's Circles**

As we continue our Bible study of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Paul writes that "we have this treasure in clay jars." The clay jars themselves were not the treasure, they were just the common containers used in everyday life. The treasure was what was inside the jars. I have some broken pieces of earthenware pottery (shards) from an archaeology excavation site near Capernaum that I will pass around for people to see. Come and see these ancient pieces of clay that once belonged to a

Galilean family.

The **Ruth Circle** will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at the home of Betsy Cunius. The **Sarah Circle** will meet in Cobb Lounge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The **Martha Circle** will meet in the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for fellowship and Bible study at the circle that will best meet your time schedule. You will be warmly welcomed.

### **Christian Readers Book Club 6:30 Wednesday, May 20**

The Christian Readers Book Club will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be reviewing the book called the Orphan Train by Christina Kline. It is based on the true stories of the orphan trains that ran from the east coast cities to the farmlands of the Midwest. Between 1854 and 1929 they ran regularly carrying thousands of abandoned children. Sometimes the children would be placed with a loving family and other times with a cruel family that treated them like slaves. This is a story about a girl named Vivian Daly and Molly Ayer. It is a story of upheaval, 2<sup>nd</sup> chances and friendship. Please come out and join us.



# Absecon Presbyterian Church Proudly Presents



## FREEDOM USA

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Rain date Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>

7PM

**ABSECON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
208 New Jersey Ave., Absecon, NJ  
On the end lot

**The cost is free but donations will be accepted**

Join us in a game to remind us that not everyone in this world is free to practice their religion!

**The game will be followed by some s'mores done on a campfire, campfire songs, and popcorn**

**Be a fisher of men and bring a friend to receive a small gift**



## **Freedom USA**

### **A Fun Event for the Family (Ages 8 – adult)**

#### **What is it?**

This is a fun event for family and friends that touches on the topic of religious freedom in our country. How fortunate we are as Christians to worship openly in the USA, but that is not true for many Christians in other places around the world. This event makes that point... but mostly it's about the excitement of trying to sneak around in the dark to deliver Bibles to secret drop off locations in and around the church grounds without getting caught by the guards. There are prizes for the first three teams to complete their mission.

This is followed by a campfire on the big field where everyone can have s'mores and other refreshments. Hang out with your old friends, make some new friends, sing some campfire songs, and have a good time.

#### **What do you do?**

Show up at the big field in Absecon next to the Absecon Presbyterian Church (where the big water slide was last summer) at 6:30 to register your team(s) of 6. The event will begin at 7 PM when it gets dark. Teams can be mixtures of kids, teens, and adults. Wear dark colors (to hide better in the dark) and have a flashlight with your name and phone number on it. Every team should have at least one flashlight. Usually 2-3 is helpful.

#### **What do you get?**

The 1<sup>st</sup> 6 teams to register will receive a free FREEDOM USA T-shirt. All team members receive an arm band and a basket of 6 Bibles. Later, everyone gets free s'mores and refreshments at the campfire. If your team comes in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> you win a prize.

#### **What's next?**

We'll tell you about our next **Family Movie Night on the Field**. Come join us for another good time. Any questions call Priscilla at 641-4877.





## Worship News

What an interesting last couple of months. WOW. So grateful that we have Reverend Purchase. I feel he will do a wonderful job of leading us all through our next phase together.

This was a wonderful learning and growing experience for me personally. Every Pastor I called from the “pulpit supply list” was encouraging. When I told them Dave was leaving and we were beginning our adventure, they laughed with me and encouraged me and told me stories. They said “whatever you need, just let me know”. Our own church members, Scott, Bob, everyone one Session, had that same wonderful “let me know what I can do” attitude, and I am so very grateful to you all. I do have to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Gay for holding everything together and coordinating with what I was referring to as “the Pastor de jour”. With so many different people speaking every Sunday, she had a lot of plates in the air. You did great Gay!!!!!!

I’m ready for this next exciting phase!

Have a Blessed month,  
Karen Muldoon

## Celebrating Moms May 10

As in the past we will be honoring our moms with a special token on Mother’s Day. This year’s gift is a mini-gardening set with a laminated bookmark, a wildflower plantable paper seed cross and a mini-trowel.

Mom, you’ve been gardener, sunshine and rain, weeding and tilling the soil watching your little “blossoms” grow tall and strong over time. Thanks for all you do!



## Mission/Evangelism News

**Family Promise** is getting closer to its goals. Thank you to all who ate dinner at Chick-Fil-A last week to raise money for the program. An upcoming **Art Auction** will take place on **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm** at The Church of St. Mark and All Saints Episcopal Church in Galloway Township. There will be wine and cheese, hors d’ oeuvres, and desserts. Artwork may be previewed from 7:00-8:00 pm before the auction begins. Tickets cost \$10.00. See Priscilla Schultheis or Leo Ransone for tickets and more information. This should be a very **enjoyable evening!** Thank you for your support.

Also, we are looking to locate and **secure a day center** for the program so if anyone knows of a building for rent or sale near a bus stop that would have an office area, family gathering area, several bathrooms...let us know. Also, we are looking for **used 15 passenger vans**. Feel free to attend any of the organizational meetings. They will take place at the Methodist Church in Absecon from 7:00-8:30 on April 30, May 28, June 25, and July 30.

**Real Partners Uganda** is a local Presbyterian outreach that has established the Mustard Seed Academy in Uganda. We already support this great mission and can help even more by contributing to and attending the upcoming Mission Auction to be held June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church. The goal is to create a computer lab at the school for the high school students. See Priscilla for more information. Sign up to go in the van.

Plans for an **Away Mission Trip** are getting closer. We have been actively discussing ideas for an Away Mission Trip for this summer. We are looking into several opportunities and expect to make a decision at our May meeting. Details will follow shortly. Hopefully you will be able to join the mission team and experience the heart of mission in a very personal way. More on that soon.

**Family Fun Day** is getting more attention with each meeting as we move ahead with planning this year's event which will take place on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 pm. Russ Adkisson will continue as our coordinator. New ideas keep popping up and we look forward to our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Fun Day. It just keeps getting bigger and better.

Our **next meeting** will take place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am in the Cobb Lounge.

In His Service, Priscilla Schultheis



### A Note from Our Deacons

The month of April was busy for the Deacons as they made over 35 Easter bags to distribute to shut-ins and the elder members of our church. We truly had a good time making the bags and visiting the many friends in our church.

We also mailed off 45 pounds of greeting cards to St Jude's Ranch for Children and will continue collecting any type of all occasion greeting card. We thank you so very much for your support in this project. Please remember that they only accept the front of each card, and it can have no writing on the back. They cannot accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards and 5 x 7 inch size or smaller is preferred. The cards can be left in the box in the foyer. If you are interested in knowing what they do with these recycled cards, you can visit their website at St Jude's Ranch for Children--Recycled Card Program.

The Community Food Bank is so very thankful for all our donations. Since January we have donated about 225 lbs. of food!!! They love us as we are one of the few churches that has an ongoing program. Remember that there are now so many in our community who are suffering with many losses, so anything that can be donated is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all our Deacons for the wonderful work they do--Russ Adkisson, Naida Burgess, Carol Jorgensen, Anita Brown, Mae Sterling, Jacqueline Bhatti, Betsy Eberhard and Bob Hudak, Jr. If anyone in our church knows of anyone who has a need that the Deacons can help with, please let any of these Deacons know so their needs can be addressed.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm in Cobb Lounge with a joint meeting to follow with the Session at 7 pm.

In Christian Love,  
Kris Jenoriki, Moderator

**Dear Members,**

Thank you so much for your recent Lenten Luncheon donation of \$163.00 to Family Promise of Atlantic County, Inc. We appreciate your continued support of this program to help homeless children and their families in our county. Enclosed is our current newsletter which will bring you up to date on our progress. *[See the hallway bulletin board.]*

Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Family Promise of Atlantic County



**Mission Auction**  
**June 20**

An event to benefit:  
**Mustard Seed Academy / Lukaya, Uganda**  
This year our goal is to create a computer lab  
for the Secondary School students.

**Free Food and Admission**  
**Live - Silent Auction**  
Golf Foursomes, Condo Rentals, Artwork  
Local Dining, and  
much more...



Sponsored by:  
**Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church**  
**Community Presbyterian Church of Brigantine**

Event Held @ 2116 Ocean Heights Ave., EHT  
[ohchurch.org](http://ohchurch.org)





## NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As of this time, God has moved **twelve** congregations, including ours, to commit to becoming a host congregation for Family Promise, Atlantic County's newest ministry for families in transition. Family Promise is progressing toward a goal of beginning its ministry by the fall of 2015 or before. Before opening, a need is a Day Center for the client families to go to during the day while they are looking for housing and jobs. We are beginning to search for such a place.

Our Day Center needs:

- **Lounge or living area**
- **2 Restrooms with showers**
- **2 Offices for the director and families**
- **Washer & dryer hook up**
- **Close proximity to public transportation.**

Please note—Family Promise has a small budget, and as such, is seeking Day Center Space that fits this circumstance as well.

If you know of appropriate space, please contact Barbara Sabbath of Family Promise at:

(609)412-5398

Email: [sabathsabby@gmail.com](mailto:sabathsabby@gmail.com)

*Please keep this ministry in your prayers.*

*Planning meetings are usually held on the last Thursday  
of the month at 7 pm at The Absecon UMC.*



### A Note from the Czech Republic

This year is an important one for the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) and the entire Czech Republic. 2015 marks the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Master Jan Hus. He was burned at the stake on 6 July 1415 following an Inquisitional trial in Constance, Germany. He was considered an heretic because he called for much needed reforms in the church. Although Hus was a priest in the church, most Czechs know him as a hero of the people. This year provides a wonderful opportunity for the Church to witness to the true greatness of this man. Although the major celebrations will be in July there are a number of activities before then. In early April, just after Easter, the ECCB planned and hosted an International Conference for the Commemoration of the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There were a number of keynote speakers who addressed various issues about Hus and the Bohemian Reformation. There were also guests from Europe, South Korea, and the US. The US guest actually lives in Cairo, Egypt. He teaches Church History and Missions at the largest seminary in the Middle East. Many of the guests made short presentations about Hus from the perspective of

their home land and church. We also had fun too. On the last night of the conference we had dinner on one of the many boats which sails up and down the Vltava River.

It was exciting to see the interest in Hus in so many countries outside the Czech Republic. This is just the beginning for an exciting and eventful year.

I'm so excited that I can be with the ECCB during this eventful year. Thank you so much for your financial support which helps to make this possible. I am also grateful for your prayers and hope you will continue to pray for us all as we mark this important year in the life of the Czech Church.

With a truly grateful heart,  
Karen

Rev. Dr. Karen R Moritz  
ECCB Central Church office  
Ecumenical Department  
Jungmannova 9 P.O. Box 466  
CZ 111 21 Praha 1  
[moritz@e-cirkev.cz](mailto:moritz@e-cirkev.cz)  
[revkarenmoritz@gmail.com](mailto:revkarenmoritz@gmail.com)  
[Karen.moritz@pcusa.org](mailto:Karen.moritz@pcusa.org)  
+420 224 999 280

## **A Message of Hope from the Pages of Recent History**

In April I made my first trip to Albania. I was leading a gathering of staff from our Discipleship Training Schools from all over Europe. We had staff from the fjords of Norway to the last train stop on the Trans-Siberian railway - Vladivostok, Russia! It was a wonderful time to invest in these young leaders and encourage them as they lead our schools all across Europe. We were also blessed with a presentation from our local Albanian staff and students.

Several things struck me from the Albanian presentation. They did a brief history of Albania. They shared how in 1967, Albania had declared themselves to be an atheist nation. They killed 40+ Catholic priests as a statement of rejecting any religious influence. The years following that decision took the nation on a depressed downward spiral. They became fearful of being invaded by a foreign nation (specifically the USA) and began to build bunkers all over the country. You can still see these cement, bee-hive type structures dotting the landscape. They embraced communism and continued to martyr hundreds of Christians . . . then the Berlin wall came tumbling down . . .

The ramifications across Europe from that one event are staggering! Some of the walls Albania had put up to keep foreign missionaries out started to crumble as well. Missions groups began flooding into Albania in the early 1990's and churches became established. They told us that the oldest functioning church in the nation is 23 years young right now! Imagine a country where no church has celebrated their 25th anniversary yet. The good news with that is the churches still like each other! They all gather annually for a conference, and there is a real sense of unity among the Christians in the nation. They are now embracing the vision of seeing Albanians go OUT of their nation and share the Gospel with neighboring countries. Our Discipleship Training School will head to Bosnia this month to share God's love and serve the people of Bosnia!

Last year Pope Francis came to Albania to visit - it was a huge statement from the Vatican. When he arrived, we were told he was greeted with a parade along the main street in the capital city . . . and lining the street were banners with the pictures of the 40+ priests that had given their lives back in 1967.

I share all of this with you as a message of hope. God can turn nations around, bring forgiveness and establish His church in less than one generation. As you watch the news today, take heart that NOTHING is impossible with God. May we be counted among those who are willing to bring down the Berlin walls. May we be willing to go to places where fear and deception rule and bring light and truth. Albania is a completely different country than it was 25 years ago. My prayer is that 25 years from now we may say the same about Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Nigeria . . . and the list goes on. I have seen it with my own eyes and I believe with all my heart we serve a God big enough to do this and more!

Resurrection Hope is alive and well - in Albania and hopefully in your heart!

Thank you for continuing to partner with me,  
Lisa

May Schedule - I will return from Croatia in early May and then head out to Seattle, Washington the end of May to speak at a Women's retreat.



### **It's Almost Here! Our 4th Annual Golf/Auction Fundraiser.**

This year we are at Greate Bay CC in Somers Point May 17<sup>th</sup>; registration is at 12:30 with a hot dog lunch. Shotgun start @ 1:30 pm, followed by a buffet dinner about 5:30 pm. Fingers crossed that someone wins the new Chevy with a hole in one!

If you aren't a golfer, join us for dinner. We will have some fun while the golfers finish their round.

There are so many wonderful items available at the auction. We have a beach cruiser bike, his or hers watch, foursomes for Stone Harbor CC and Greate Bay CC, and sooo much more. Donations are still coming in.

**Please note this year there will be a slight change to our auction.** Our silent auction will truly be silent. Everyone will be given a number when they arrive. When you see an item you wish to bid on you simply put your NUMBER and the amount you would like to bid. NO NAMES!!! We will also have members of the committee walking around who will be more than happy to bring the bid sheet to you. Checks are encouraged and should be made out to The Presbyterian Church at Absecon.

Please note that Greate Bay will have someone at the front door to assist you. If you would prefer the elevator to the stairs, they will assist with that as well.

The staff at Greate Bay has been so wonderful to work with. This is going to be a FANTASTIC event. You joining us will make it that much more !!!!!

See you there, The Golf Committee



## Thanks You's For April

- To our session for the many hours spent reading over Personal Information Forms for various interim candidates, interviewing, calling references, and then coming to an agreement with Rev. Tom Purchase. *Great choice!*
- Our men's group who conducted a great Good Friday service on April 3. Also, to Leo and John who cooked a great breakfast. Special thanks to Don Mills for putting the service together, to Vic Werner for his Good Friday Thoughts and to Vic & Harold for all the special music.
- The "about 40" volunteers who came on our church work day April 18. (I think that's a record attendance!) The place looks great.
- Jan, John and Vic who helped prepare for Lent and Easter by setting up our Lenten Crosses, 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!



## Property Committee Update

I have to start out by saying thank you to all the people who came out for spring clean-up day on April 18th. We had 40 people / members come out to help with the many jobs that needed to be done. With so many people helping it made for light work. The church and the manse look great. We are so blessed as a church to have members that give of themselves.

The manse project is moving along, and there is still quite a lot that needs to be done. Kitchen cabinets are due to be delivered April 25<sup>th</sup> and should be installed shortly after. The windows still need to have the wood trim attended to; once that is complete I will be able to install the blinds. The painting is almost complete, and a special thanks needs to go to Kirk Conover who took that project on himself, the manse looks great. Thanks Kirk. Vic Werner installed the 2 new shower / tubs. That was another big project that we can be thankful to have Vic involved. Thank you, Vic. I am in the process of replacing all of the electrical outlets and light switches. Thanks go to Donna Hughes for putting together the design and keeping things organized. Thanks, Mom

The few big projects left will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Again thanks to all who donated so generously of their time and money. I would like to organize a work day for the manse for final cleanup and the few other small projects that will need to be done before we turn the manse over to the Pastor. Keep an eye out in the Sunday bulletin for that announcement. Also, I would like to get the manse / property committee together

for a quick meeting to just go over the other items in the church that need attention. I will keep you posted on that date.

Completion date of the manse renovation will be June 24<sup>th</sup>. That means all things need to be complete and ready to turn the keys over to the new tenant.

We can give thanks for me saving everyone's life that was to ride in the van the Thursday the van went missing. I received a couple of complaints about the van pulling to the right. I had taken the van to be repaired early in the morning not even thinking that Sister Jean's was that day. I had intended to let Gay know. I did finally let Gay know where the van was so she did not need to call the police. (LOL)

Yours in Christ,  
Dan Hughes  
Property Committee Chairman

### **Successful Spring Work Day Thanks to Many Helpers**

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, was a glorious Spring Day, and to prove it over 40 church members came out to help at our Spring Work Day. Windows were washed, weeds pulled, mulch spread, grass cut, refrigerators and ovens cleaned, pews scrubbed and inside work at the manse accomplished. I am so very grateful to all the people who came to help with this endeavor. Much work is still needed at the manse, so if you are able to work in any capacity, please see Dan Hughes or anybody on the Property Committee.

Serving you through Christ,  
Kris Jenoriki



Several weeks ago a new Cypress tree was planted in our cemetery to replace another tree which was lost during a storm several years ago. The choice of the new tree was fitting.

The extensive history of the cypress tree dates back to ancient times, when it appeared in myths and legends as an emblem of mourning. Over the centuries, it has been considered a sacred tree by many religions and cultures. In the Christian tradition, it is a symbol of death, life and resurrection. The tall, column-shaped Cypress tree reaches toward heaven, much like a church spire, directing our eyes and hearts upward. Its wood is hard and extremely durable and its foliage is evergreen, reminding us of everlasting life.





## **Fellowship Committee**

Our annual Strawberry Festival will take place on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6 PM - 8 PM. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. John Channell and his friends from Albert Hall (a.k.a. the Strawberry Pickers) will be here for our listening pleasure. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteering to help, as well as donating items such as short cakes, pound cakes, ice cream, and whipped toppings. Please sign up if you are willing to help out in any way, and please join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and good food.

The following day (Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>) we will be having a Yard Sale held in coordination with the City Wide Yard Sale. The cost to participate in this event will be \$10 for a space without a table and \$15 for a space with a table. There will be a sign up sheet to reserve a space, please indicate whether you will need a table or not. We will also have a church table and donations will be accepted. There will also be a sign up sheet to help that day, many hands make light work, and all the help that we can get will be greatly appreciated.

On April 19<sup>th</sup> we had our last brunch of the year; thank you to Kris Jenoriki for organizing all of the help. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with brunch throughout the year! Brunches will resume in the fall.

The last Second Monday Monthly Lunch of the year will take place on May 11th. Thank you to Karen Muldoon for organizing this monthly event and Leo Ransone for cooking all of the delicious meals. Also thank you to everyone that helped set up, serve, and clean up.

We are also planning another Dinner Cruise for July (eating first and then boarding the boat) and the Annual Church Picnic at the lake in August. Please be on the lookout for more information as it becomes available. Then on September 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a Congregational Concert with a dinner.

The next fellowship meeting is TBA.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,  
Dawn Duran, Chairperson

## **Memorial Day Picnic after Worship Sunday, May 24**

Our Doug Jablonski Men's Fellowship will host their annual Memorial Day picnic at the manse following the 11:00 worship service.

Come for a time of good food and fellowship. See Don Mills for additional information.

## **Lunch Bunch to the Windjammer Diner**

Lunch Bunch will be heading back to The Windjammer Diner in Somers Point on Wednesday, May 13. Meet at the church at 11:30 or at the restaurant at Noon!



**Evergreens Spring Lunch at Smithville Inn**

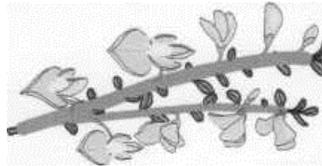
Evergreens will be having their Spring Luncheon at Smithville Inn at noon on May 27th. See Joanna, Anita or Fran for reservations. Reservations must be in by May 20th.

**Doug Jablonski Men’s Fellowship Breakfast May 2**

The Men’s Fellowship will meet for breakfast on Saturday, May 2, at 8:30 a.m. We will be planning for our annual Memorial Day picnic on May 24.



EVERGREENS SPRING LUNCHEON  
AT THE HISTORIC SMITHVILLE INN  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015 - 12 NOON



Please check your choice of entree  
and return this form and **cash ONLY**  
to Anita Brown, Fran Weir or Joanna Howell  
no later than **Wednesday, MAY 20TH.**

All entrees include salad, fresh baked bread, butter, vegetable and Dessert

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

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



**Thanks So Much!**

Dottie McCaffrey was thrilled to be back in church on April 19! She asks to be sure her thanks go out to everyone for their thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards, visits, soups, breads, etc. Your kindness was sincerely appreciated!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Deacons and Church Friends,

My shoulder surgery (replacement) went well and I am doing pretty good with the exercises.

Once home, I came down with pneumonia and then that awful stomach virus. I felt doomed, but with your thoughts and prayers, I pulled through.

Thanks for the soups, meals and of course those “awesome” tollhouse cookies. (You really should sell them). Mine never turned out like this.

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and e-mail. With all this, how could I Not get well.

Easter arrives and here comes the “Easter bag”. (You’re like the Ever Ready battery, just keeps on going)

I often feel as if I could get up and dance but that will never happen.

My thanks to all.

In His Name,  
Betsy Cunius  
(eacunius@comcast.net)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

To All My Friends at Presbyterian Church at Absecon –

Thank you so much for the outpouring of support after I broke my shoulder last month. I have greatly appreciated the fruit baskets, poncho/prayer shawl, the beautiful cross, palm leaves and lovely get well cards. I will treasure these.

Even more so, your thoughts and prayers have helped me greatly. I am so grateful to have such a community of support & friendship.

I hope to see you all in a few weeks as I continue to recover. May God be with you.

Love,  
Anna C.P. Lee

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Kirk & I would like to thank the Deacons for the beautiful fruit basket and the wonderful soups and breads that were delivered by Carol Thomas along with her barbeque beef, rolls and cookies. Again, Loretta came through

with the ice machine and Roger's special putter cane was just amazing (I think you should patent that idea, Roger). Thank you all for the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. My recovery has been steady and I'm so thankful to have my church family there every step of the way. God Bless you all!

Love,  
Nancy

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you all for your good wishes and cards on my 90th birthday. I feel overwhelmed and very blessed to have such a caring church family.

Faithfully in Christ,  
Paul Hamer

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Deacons and Friends of Absecon Presbyterian Church

Thank you for pink Easter bag full of goodies.

After a trip to the Dr.'s there it was on my porch. What a nice surprise. It is so nice to know people are thinking of you.

I also want to thank Gerry, her visits lite up my day.

Again Thank You  
Peg Merrill

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I want to thank everyone at Absecon Presbyterian Church for the prayers and get well cards I received while I was in the hospital and rehab center. An additional "thank you" to the Deacons for the great fruit basket.

The support and thoughtfulness of so many people was very comforting to me and also very encouraging.

Sincerely,  
Jim Maurer



Lay Assistants

- 03 9:30 Kirk Conover  
11:00 Priscilla Schultheis
- 10 9:30 David Burgess  
11:00 Dawn Duran
- 17 9:30 Lee Wolff  
11:00
- 24 9:30 David Burgess  
11:00
- 31 9:30 Dennis Scardilli  
11:00 Dawn Duran

Head Ushers

- 03 9:30 Rita & Vic Abelson  
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
- 10 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas  
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
- 17 9:30 Greg Hamaty, Ginny Davenport  
11:00 Joanna Howell, Nancy Swank
- 24 9:30 Ron & Joyce Pfeiffer  
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro
- 31 9:30 Greg Hamaty, Leslie Harvey  
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro

Offering (9:30)

- 03 Jack & Dee Heil
- 10 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
- 17 Jan & Carol Jorgensen
- 24 Bryan & Vicky Hawkes
- 31 Edith Budd, Roy Birkbeck

Deacon for the Month

Kris Jenoriki

Acolyte (9:30)

- 03 Jordan Hawkes
- 10 Kassie Little
- 17 Libby Little
- 24 Franklin Nale
- 31 Bud Burgess

Nursery (11:00 Sarah Gillis)

- 03 Gloria Achamizo
- 10 Jennifer Platt
- 17 Jordan Hawkes
- 24 Gloria Achamizo
- 31 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

- 03 John Channell
- 10 Barb Hughes
- 17 Tina Brown
- 24 Vic Abelson
- 31 Ed Little

Refreshment Hosts

- 03 Nancy & Kirk Conover, Joanie Hoenes
- 10 Cheryl Hawkes, Joanna Howell
- 17 Josh Howling, Donna Hughes
- 24 Marjorie McGuigan, Karen Little
- 31 Louise Speitel, Diane Lee

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 03 Set-up – Libby Little  
Cook – Ed Little  
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
- 10 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki  
Cook – John Channell  
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
- 17 Set-up –  
Cook –  
Clean-up –
- 24 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes  
Cook – Bryan Hawkes  
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
- 31 Set-up – Linda Adkisson  
Cook – Russ Adkisson  
Clean-up – Gayle Ackerman

Counter Schedule

- 03 Debbie & Don Wong
- 10 Steve & Ginny Schwab
- 17 Judy & Dave Stebbins
- 24 Leo Ransone & Nancy Conover
- 31 Gerald Hoenes & Betsy Torjussen