

*June 2015*

# *Good News*

**Verse of the Month:** *“I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” Psalm 146:2*



*The Presbyterian Church at Absecon*

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## The View from the Study Window

By the time you read this newsletter, I will have been at the Absecon church for almost two months. During that time, I have been fascinated by the view out the study window.

Over the years, I have had many different views from the pastor's studies where I have served. One study window gave me a view of a golf course; another looked over woods. One study window was stained glass. The only thing I could see from it was an alley when I swung it open. On the Great Plains, all I could see from one church was the county court house; another gave me a view of fields.

The Native American churches I served had no studies on the church grounds. I could see miles and miles of rolling hills. In fact, one church on the reservation was named, The Mayasan Presbyterian Church. "Mayasan", means, "gray hills".

Studies in churches I served overlook many places. All have had interest to me and all gave a view of the God's creation. All places, urban, rural, small town and resort town are part of creation over which we have been given stewardship.

As I look out the study window at Absecon, I see a busy street. I can also see trains going by on occasion. The busy street scene is consistent with the busy church. This is a good thing and a cause for celebration. There is nothing so sad as a church building that lies empty all week long only to be populated on Sunday mornings. Many of our urban churches are empty all week and that is sad when these buildings could be sanctuaries in the troubled waters of hopelessness that we find in so many places.

I mention this only because we have a job ahead, you and I. We will be planning how to stay busy and, not only relevant, but vital into another century. In other words, we will be asking, "How can we be a sanctuary in the troubled waters of hopelessness and yearning that surround us?" That is the job of the transition period in the life of the congregation.

Maybe the view out the study window will change in time and maybe our entire vision for the church in the future will not include a study for the pastor as we know it, but instead will include a virtual study. Who knows?

I am excited to find out, aren't you? Granted; this means that many things that we take for granted will have to change and many ways that we find comfortable will be questioned, but that is part of growing.

Let's get to work!

Grace for the journey,  
Tom Purchase, Interim Pastor



## Summer Schedule Begins June 28

Our last Sunday of our regular worship schedule will be on June 21, Father's Day. That will be our last breakfast and the last Sunday the choir will sing until after Labor Day.

From June 28 through September 6 (Labor Day weekend) there will be one service at 10:00 a.m. with Special Music. We will serve refreshments outside, weather permitting. Instead of Sunday School, children in grades PreK-7 will go to age appropriate 40 Minute Club. The office may have reduced hours, and things like cleaning service will be reduced according to need.

Enjoy your summer, and see you in church!



## Coming Soon: The Pastor's Weekly Bible Study

At the request of a number of adult learners, the Interim Pastor will be starting a Bible study during the day. It looks like Tuesdays at 1:30PM has the most votes so far, but if there are sufficient people to warrant a night time study, that could be arranged.

We will begin in September after we return to the two service Sunday schedule when most people are back from vacation and summer activities.

The Interim Pastor is open to suggestions regarding where to begin. One track would have us completing the Gospel Account of John. Another suggestion is to start at the beginning of the New Testament. Yet another suggestion was to study Genesis and proceed using some of the ancient source documents for background.

If anyone has other suggestions, just call Tom.

Hope to see you in the fall for an intense and deeper exploration of Holy Scripture.



## Worship News

Please note that Communion will take place the **SECOND** Sunday of the month for June, July & August.

Our ONE service at 10 am will begin the Sunday after Father's day. Please keep in Prayer, all those who will be traveling over the summer months.

Have a Blessed summer, Karen

## Fathers To Be Honored With Special Gift On Father's Day

On Father's Day, June 21, a multi-tool pocket knife with a Bible verse on the handle will be available for men attending worship. An enclosed card speaks to the importance of Christian men in witnessing for Christ, being an example for others, and helping others.

Dads, this is our way of saying thanks for your spiritual leadership in our homes. God bless you!



### Prayer Chain

If you would like to join our Prayer Chain please notify the office. **The only requirements are that you have a willingness to pray and keep all requests in confidence.** (Requests are passed on to Chain members through our notification system.)

We trust that you do already pray for special needs, and perhaps God is calling you to be part of this ministry.

*If you have a prayer need please call the office. Your request will be kept in strict confidence.*



### Mission/Evangelism

The Mission/Evangelism Committee completed the May walk through of the **Bakely House**. The house remains in good shape. We are preparing for a transition in June when the current family moves on and a new family prepares to move in on July 15, 2015.

The Mission/Evangelism Committee approved the allocation of \$1000.00 for disaster relief in **Nepal** through our **Presbyterian Disaster Relief Program**. Session approved the motion to allow the congregation to contribute to a special offering over the course of two Sundays to increase our contribution even further. These Sundays will be May 24 and May 31, 2015. There will be special envelopes placed in the pew racks for this purpose. Thank you for your support.

The committee also designated \$200 for the **Jesus Cares Christian Ministry** which offers support to Christian children in Pakistan in conjunction with the deacons.

**Family Promise** is getting closer to its goals. An upcoming **Art Auction** will take place on **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm** at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Galloway Township. Approximately 25 people have bought tickets and plan to make an evening of it all in support of **Family Promise**. We definitely want our presence felt since we are now a host church and linked to the success of this program. 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, Leo Ransone, or Betty Price for tickets and more information. This should be a very **enjoyable evening!** Sign up for the van if you would like a ride. It will leave at 5:30 pm. Thank you for your support.

We are also collecting **recycled shoes** as a fund raiser for **Family Promise**. No flip flops or rollerblades please. When the box is full, we'll ship it to the recycling company. They will pay us 0.50 a pound (Really...no rollerblades!) and that money will go to Family Promise. Then we'll set up the next box, so this will be an ongoing fundraiser. Your closets will never look better.

A special **Mission Auction** will take place on **Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church from 6-8 pm**. Our van will leave at 5 pm. Many people from all the Presbyterian churches, including

our own, are donating services, gift certificates, baskets, and other items. Some you can win by chance, by silent auction, and a few, such as a time share condo in FL, will go to the live auction. All proceeds will benefit Real Partners Uganda and the Mustard Seed Academy. We already support this great mission and can help even more attending the Mission Auction. 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.

We selected our **Away Mission Trip** destination. We are now making arrangements to participate in the **Christian Appalachian Project in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky**. We are looking into the dates that we will attend. We will be driving down to Kentucky on a Sunday and returning home the next Friday. It will cost each member \$400 to participate, but willing sponsors have provided incredible assistance in the past. The committee will likely offer each attendee \$100 toward the cost. All meals are included and the projects prearranged. Look for upcoming announcements about the exact dates. We'll have an organizational meeting and hope that many members will be able to attend.

We are looking into a **Family Retreat a Keswick**, but we wanted to be certain about the away mission trip dates before we locked in the dates for this event. More news to follow soon.

**Family Fun Day** will be the focus of our next meeting. Approximately 500 people from the community came out to spend a day with us last summer. It takes a lot of people to keep this running smoothly so hopefully you will be willing to help. Stay tuned for sign-ups.

Our **next meeting** will take place on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am in the Cobb Lounge.

In His Service, Priscilla Schultheis

*Congratulations to all for a very successful CWS Health Kit collection! There were 42 kits supplied by our congregation and our Sunday School put together 71 kits for a total of 113! These were boxed up by Russ and Carol T. the end of April and will be shipped to Church World Service. Thanks to everyone who supplied kits, to those who helped put them together, and to all who took part in the Sunday School's Pennies for Pins fundraiser to purchase items. Great job!*

## **Mission Garden Update**

Check out our garden! We have tomatoes and peas planted along the back driveway and all sorts of vegetables and herbs in the raised beds by the manse. Feel free to go look and pray for God's bounty.

We can use trellises and stakes if you have any lying around. We can also use help with watering and weeding.

We will share news of the harvest throughout the summer.

*Many thanks to Joe's Garden Center in Galloway for donating many vegetable plants and herbs when Marilyn went there to purchase additional plants for the garden.*

## **Dear Friends at Absecon Pres.,**

Greetings from Prague. I hope all is well in this time of transition. Amidst so much change I am really grateful for your faithful constancy with me. Thank you so much for your financial and prayer support.

Things are busy here in Prague as we mark the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Master Jan Hus. We are preparing and leading a lot of special events.

May the joy of this Easter tide be with you all.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Karen



### Open Doors . . .

I love taking pictures of doors. For some reason, doors are beautiful to me. They have so much character, come in so many different varieties and the best thing is - there is something yet to be discovered behind a door. A closed door is intriguing and a challenge - what is behind it? How can I open it? Is it safe to open? An open door is also intriguing and challenging - Do I dare look in? Is it safe to enter? Can I see anything from this side? Discovering what is on the other side requires actually walking THROUGH the open door - or if it is a closed door, banging it down first and THEN walking through it.

These last few years as I have visited Croatia - it has been a series of doors set before me. Some have been closed quite tightly while others have been cracked open or even wide open. The key has been to actually walk through to the other side. My latest trip felt like I had walked through a series of opened doors. My friends there on the Dalmatian coast had set up 5 different seminars for me to do. A few of these seminars were open doors that I had walked through last year and they wholeheartedly invited me back to join them again and share. Two of the seminars were NEW opportunities. One was a Catholic confirmation class for a group of 35 16 year olds. This door has been cracking open in the last few years and last month it swung right open and beckoned me to boldly walk through it. I had an amazing time on the island of Hvar with this group of high school students. The local priest was so encouraging and open for me to share with his class how Holy Spirit has guided me in my missions work. I began to teach at 8:30 pm and finished at 9:45pm - you could have heard a pin drop as these students were as amazed as I how God leads and guides us step by step. I know many of you were praying for my time there and God definitely heard your prayers and His presence was tangible!

The second unexpected door that opened was with a university crowd. Their group leaders had come to one of my seminars last fall and asked if I would travel up the coast a few hours to share with their university students. It is such a privilege to GO and disciple in places where there is very few local resources and often times very little input. The hunger for God's Word and stories of faith is contagious. I have seen first-hand how the lack of resources and input is a gift in that these precious people truly soak in what is shared and do not take for granted the privilege of hearing God's Word and gathering together as His Body.

What I discovered this time in Croatia was that stepping through these open doors led me to meet amazing people and to share God's love in dry, but thirsty places. The opportunities on the other side of those doors are limitless. I wonder how many of you have doors set before you right now. Don't hesitate to step through or even pound them down . . . you never know what God-size opportunity is on the other side.

I will be traveling to our Kona, Hawaii campus in June to do some staff training and will also be attending a graduation ceremony for some of our students who will complete their Discipleship Training School. It will be exciting to witness them all walking through a new open door!

Thank you for your continued partnership, Lisa



## Our 4th Annual Golf/Auction Fundraiser was Another Great Success!

Our Golf Committee did another spectacular job organizing and running another successful event. Many thanks to the entire committee for their months of planning and hard work! Our congratulations to the following tournament winners:

### **1st Place Men's**

Steve McBrearty  
Bennett Muldoon, Sr.  
Bennett Muldoon, Jr

### **2nd Place Men's**

Steve Muldoon  
Jenn Littlefield  
Greg Simpkins  
Joe Decker

### **1st Place Ladies'**

Gayle Ackerman  
Paula Finnerty  
Linda Dutch  
Debbie Bolis

### **Closest to the Pin**

Men: Bennett Muldoon, Jr  
Ladies: Alice Smith

## Thank You's For May



- To our Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir under the direction of Harold Hawkes for their Memorial Day tribute on May 24.
- To those who have worked so hard each month on our monthly brunches and 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday lunches. We can't wait to see what they dish up in the fall!
- To our Handbell Choir for another year of bringing their special music to our worship services. We look forward to hearing them again in the fall.
- To Russ for decorating the yard with flags for Memorial Day
- To the entire Golf Committee for another job well done. What a fabulous event!
- To everyone who has been working in our Mission Garden. With God's help we will have another bountiful harvest to share with those in need.
- To all who planned and carried out another successful Freedom USA event. Everyone had a great time!



## **Remember Your Heritage**

We are all proud of the condition of our cemetery. It reflects well on our Church and is seen by thousands of people every day as they drive through town on New Jersey Avenue. This has not come about by accident. Your Cemetery Committee oversees the maintenance of the cemetery grounds and authorizes the expenses incurred.

Annually, it costs about \$8,500.00 in materials, equipment, maintenance of equipment and salaries. While we have a healthy Trust Fund, it is not increasing, but, in fact, is declining. The Committee is dependent for income on the sale of niches and plots and interest from the investment of the Trust Fund. Lately, we have bought back more plots than we sold.

In the past, when someone passed on, the cemetery has been remembered by church members and their families with a bequeath either as a gift from the survivors or in the will of the person who died. We encourage you to consider the need of the cemetery for income by remembering us in your will. Our ability to raise revenue is limited. The committee wants to continue the high level of maintenance and keep our cemetery in a “park – like” condition and an attraction on the Avenue.

The Cemetery Committee



## **Fellowship Committee**

We are now wrapping up the year. We have had our last Brunch and our last 2nd Monday Monthly Lunch for the year. Both of these events will resume again in the fall. Thank you so much to Kris Jenoriki for organizing the Sunday Brunches, and thanks to everyone that helped whether it was setting up, serving, cooking, collecting tickets, or clean up. Many hands make light work. A big thank you to Karen Muldoon for organizing the 2nd Monday Monthly Lunches and to Leo Ransone for cooking all of the delicious food. Also, thank you to all who helped with 2nd Monday Monthly Lunch; your help throughout the year was most certainly appreciated.

Moving into the summer Father's Day will be the last breakfast until after summer. Thank you to Cheryl Hawkes for organizing breakfast each week and thanks to all that helped either set up, cook, or clean up from breakfast. Refreshments will be served outside, weather permitting, during our summer schedule starting June 28th.

The Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8pm. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. This includes a strawberry dessert complete with ice cream and whipped topping, a drink, and entertainment. The entertainment will be provided by John Channell and his friends, "The Strawberry Pickers". Please join us for an evening of great food, fellowship, and wonderful music. We are also looking for volunteers to help that day as some of those that normally would be there to help will be away. There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway if you would like to donate either baked goods or ice cream. Please see Dawn Duran if you are interested in helping. Thank you in advance for your help and/or donations.

The following day, on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8AM - 4PM we will be participating in the City Wide Yard Sale. Please see Dawn Duran (609)287-2411 if you are interested in reserving a space and/or a table. The prices are as follows: The cost of a space alone (you provide your own table) is \$10 and the cost for a space with a table (we provide the table) is \$15. There will also be a church table, and we are looking for donations to use at the



church table (no clothes for the church table please). The items may be dropped off in the church garage ahead of time. We are also looking for many volunteers to help that day. The several areas to help with include picking up and setting up tables, setting up the food area, cooking (hotdogs and hamburgers), serving food, manning the church table, cleaning up the food area, breaking down and returning tables. Please sign up in the vestibule if you are able to help with anything, thank you. Also for your information, the yard sale will be set up in the parking lot this year, and the food will be served inside, parking will be available on the end lot.

We are planning a meet and greet with the interim pastor. This will be a covered dish event, but we still have to set a date, please be on the lookout for more information. We are also looking into another dinner cruise in July, and in August we will be having our annual church picnic at the lake. There will be more information in the next Good News, and we will keep you posted on any information as it becomes available.

Summertime is a great time to get out and enjoy some great fellowship, so we hope to see all at all of these events and the other activities that our wonderful church has planned. The next Fellowship Committee meeting will take place in Cobb Lounge on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,  
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



### **Evergreens**

Evergreens will not be meeting during the months of June, July and August. We will meet again in September; possibly a picnic will be planned. Watch for announcements.

### **Church Directory Update**

New mailing address:

Carol DeLaurentis  
PO Box 75  
Absecon, New Jersey 08201



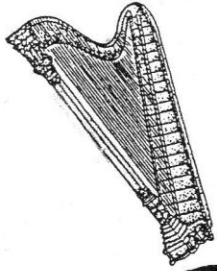
### **Thanks So Much!**

To Our Dear Friends, and the Deacons, Sarah Circle,

We thank you for your cards, calls, during our sadness at the loss of our son Robbie.


Robbie is at peace reunited with his mother & brother in God's Heaven.

In Christian Love,  
Bob & Irene Hunter



Your Fellowship  
COMMITTEE - - -  
Proudly presents:



Greg Buchanan   
in concert...  
- 7pm -

FRI  
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>  
2015

on his 6' SALVI HARP  
and the  
"historic" Irish Celtic  
Harp  
plus "King David's"  
Kinnor Harp!!!



MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS NOW

"Nancy & Friends" to cook Dinner!!  
(2 Seatings - Tickets Available AUG. 23<sup>rd</sup>)

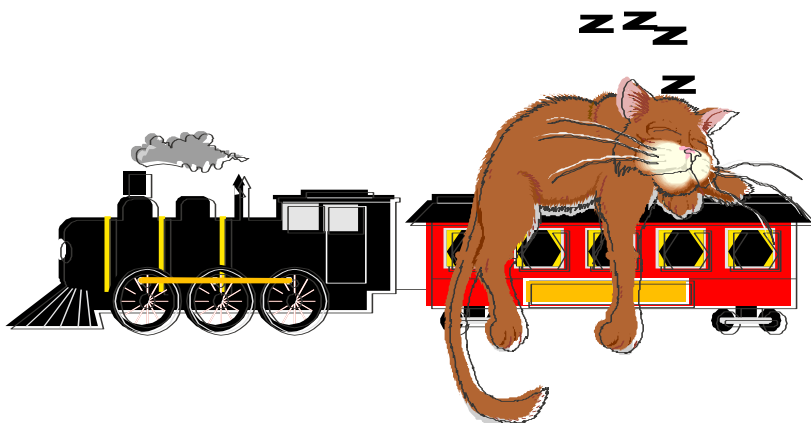
COMPLETE DETAILS in our  
Summer Good News!!

At age 9, Greg began playing the harp. Naturally gifted, he excelled and progressed quickly. As a young man, he spent four years in the United States Naval Band stationed in Washington, D.C. Following the military, Greg entered the southern California music scene, and experienced professional successes. His personal life was not successful. Having experienced alcohol at age 13, Greg's life deteriorated; thrusting him into the downward spiral of alcoholism, drugs, occultic practices, and brief encounters with the law. In the fall of 1981, Greg left the music scene and entered college, thinking he would be able to put his life back together. During this time a friend invited Greg to a Christian concert. That night was to be the new beginning he was desperately searching for, and the rest of his story is a shining example of the Grace of God.

Greg Buchanan's superb musicianship, combined with an enthusiastic attitude toward the Christian life, and the infectious spirit of his personal testimony make him one of the most sought after Christian performers in America.

## OPEN HOUSE TRAIN TOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 – 10AM TIL 4PM.



RAIN DATE JUNE 20 10AM TIL 4PM.

**TOM AND ANITA BROWN  
1103 SEASIDE AVENUE  
ABSECON, NJ**

**TOUR INCLUDES SIX OTHER HOMES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. GO TO [www.trainweb.org/sjgrs](http://www.trainweb.org/sjgrs) FOR MAPS AND DIRECTIONS**

### **Absecon Historical Society Showcases Church Items**

The Absecon Historical Society Museum is currently running a special display of historic items belonging to our church. If you would like to check out this exhibit you are welcome to visit the Howlett Hall Museum at 100 New Jersey Avenue any Saturday between 11-2.



Lay Assistants

- 07 9:30 Naida Burgess  
11:00 Linda Gillis
- 14 9:30  
11:00 Priscilla Schultheis
- 21 9:30 Kirk Conover  
11:00 Linda Gillis
- 28 10:00

Head Ushers

- 07 9:30 Rita & Vic Abelson  
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro
- 14 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas  
11:00 Joanna Howell, Nancy Swank
- 21 9:30 Barbara Hughes, Kirk Conover  
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
- 28 10:00 Naida & David Burgess

Offering (9:30)

- 07 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
- 14 Jack & Dee Heil
- 21 Ilsa Smith, Bob Wilkenloh
- 28 (10:00) Betty Price, Roy Birkbeck

Deacon for the Month

Mae Sterling

Acolyte (9:30)

- 07 Franklin Nale
- 14 Libby Little
- 21 Jordan Hawkes

Nursery (11:00 Sarah Gillis)

- 07 Jordan Hawkes
- 14 Gloria Achamizo
- 21 Jennifer Platt
- 28 (10:00) Jordan Hawkes

Van Drivers

- 07 John Channell
- 14 Barb Hughes
- 21 Tina Brown
- 28 (10:00) Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

- 07 Dottie McCaffrey, Laurie & Jim McManus
- 14 Gay & John Channell, Barbara Mellon
- 21 Russ & Lynn Adkisson, Betty Price
- 28 Ilsa Smith, Judy Stebbins

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 07 Set-up – Libby Little  
Cook – Ed Little  
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
- 14 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki  
Cook – John Channell  
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
- 21 Special Breakfast Buffet
- 28 No Breakfast – See you in the fall!

Counter Schedule

- 07 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover
- 14 Debbie & Don Wong
- 21 Barbara & Bob Hudak
- 28 Steve & Ginny Schwab

