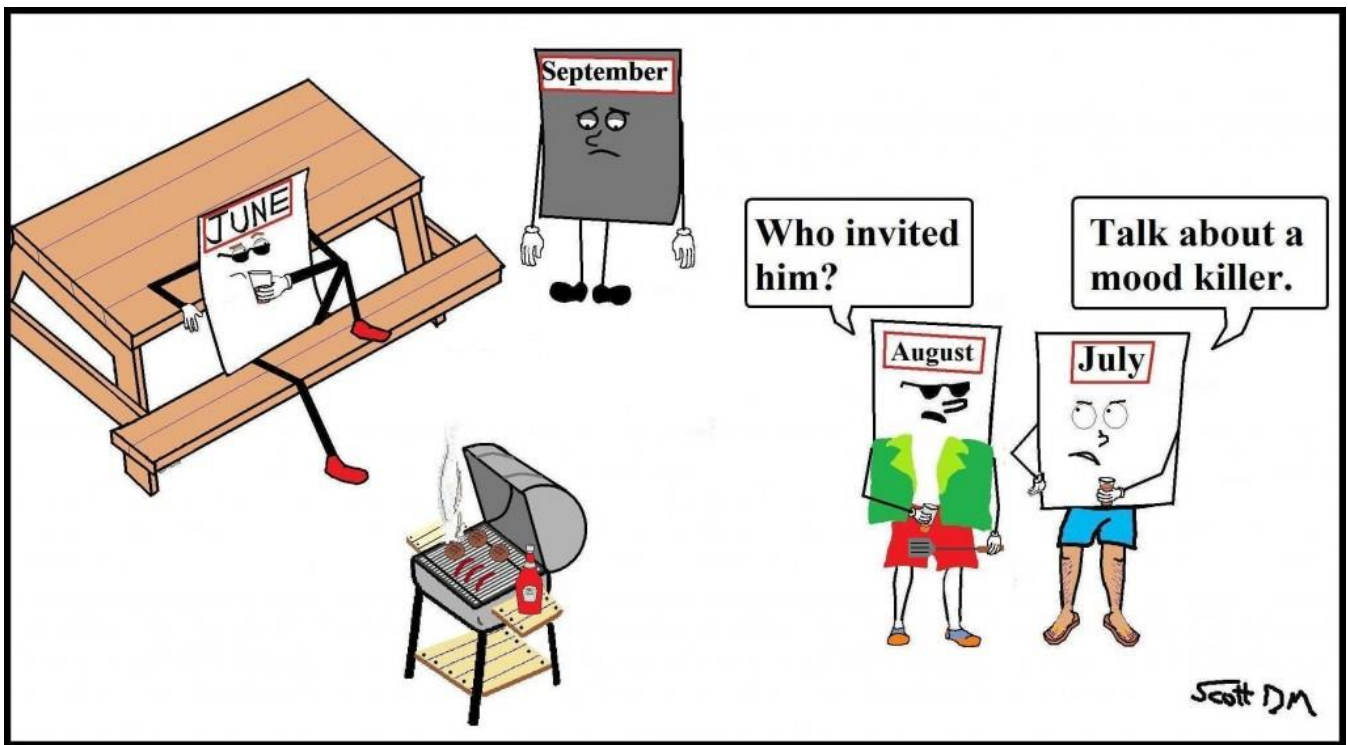


September 2015

Good News

Verse of the Month: “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8: 28



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September 2015 Edition of “Good News”
From the Interim Pastor’s Study

Dear Friends,

It is September and it seems as if we just started summer. Soon, we will begin almost all of our programming and we will return to two worship services, 9:30 and 11:00 AM, on Sunday morning. Since time seems to fly by me these days, I was wondering what all of us did with our summer.

Some people went on vacations to various places. Many people stayed home. Studies have shown us that fewer and fewer Americans actually take their vacation time. People are not using all their vacation time in order to refresh themselves or pursue other interests or avocations.

Many people take the time off, but do not really use it for a real vacation. They take their lap tops, their blackberries, their pagers and their personal digital assistants with them. They check their email five times per day. And, employers count on this by contacting the workers with assignments to fulfill, “while they take some time off”.

Some people will say that this is a good thing since it demonstrates a good work ethic. However, even Jesus advocated taking time off. After the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus tried to enable His disciples to have some time apart for refreshment, to recharge their evangelical batteries.

Studies have also shown us that people work more efficiently and with greater purpose when they take their vacations. So, why don’t we take time off?

Sometimes we are afraid that if we do so, we won’t have our jobs when we return. Or, we think that we are indispensable. Are we better than Jesus? He advocated taking vacations. We human beings are not machines. We cannot run and run forever without rest. At the very least, we need maintenance. Part of that is spiritual refreshment through prayer and meditation.

As we enter a new program year, I want to be able to offer times of spiritual refreshment. It is traditional for Sessions to take retreats after electing new elders and deacons. But, we need to find opportunities for all of us to step away and seek God’s guidance.

I would welcome your suggestions concerning how we might accomplish that. Sometime in the coming program year, (September through May), I would like to offer a spiritual retreat for the Absecon congregation. It should be in a place apart, somewhere quiet where we can dedicate time to centering and growing our spirituality. In preparation for that time, I will be posting occasional blogs on spirituality at <http://chaplaintom.tumblr.com> along with my blog on faith and public life at <http://chaplaintomdoc.wordpress.com> you can respond to any post and ask questions as well.

Let me know what you think about a retreat, and I’ll see you in church.

Grace and peace,
Tom Purchase
Interim Pastor





Regular Schedule Begins September 13

We return to our regular service schedule (9:30 and 11:00) the Sunday following Labor Day, September 13. That is Rally Day, and after some fanfare the children will leave the service to begin Sunday School classes with their teachers. Sunday breakfast also begins that day at 8:45, and the choir will sing at both services (choir practice begins Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7:00pm). Refreshments will be served in Madden Hall between services.

Our last single service of the summer will be September 6. That will be a communion service at 10:00 led by the pastor.

Sunday School to Kick Off with Rally Day September 13, 2015

Welcome back!! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. We had some great events, we saw Big Hero 6 and visited the Cape May Zoo. Forty Minute Club was a success thanks to the many volunteers that helped bring it together. It was a busy and productive summer.

Rally Day will take place on **September 13th** at the 9:30 service. Everyone should arrive 30 minutes early for direction. Our Sunday School theme for this year is **Thrive – Anything is Possible!** This connects to September's verse of the month, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. Following the activities of Rally Day, the youth of the Sunday School, Teachers and Aides will enjoy a continental breakfast. During this time we will be discussing what we planned for the upcoming year.

Sunday School will run from 9:30-10:30am each Sunday. Classes are offered for 3 yr. olds through adults. A nursery is available for our babies and toddlers. Anyone interested in teaching or being an aide please contact me.

Classes for **grades 7-12** will continue to remain in the Worship Service on Communion Sundays to participate in the sacrament and worship experience. Once a quarter on Communion Sundays for our **1-6 graders** will be fellowship Sundays with these classes coming together in Madden Hall for organized learning and fun. This will allow our Teachers and Aides the opportunity to participate in Communion. A schedule of these dates and events planned will be posted in each classroom and available on the church calendar.

A **Bible Study for adults**, led by Anna Mae and Vic Werner, will take place every Sunday in the Cobb Lounge from 9:30-10:15am. Many adults have already expressed interest in attending and can enjoy going from this Bible Study to the 11:00am worship service with refreshments in between.

Kids and adults are encouraged to **bring friends** and new families to the church. We take note of this throughout the year and present **Evangelist Awards** in the spring to kids and adults who bring others to the church. Attendance makes a big difference to everyone. We'll be recognizing **Attendance Awards** in the spring with **Bronze** (15+), **Silver** (20+), **Gold** (25+), and **Kryptonite** (30+). This year in addition to that, the **Infinity and Beyond Award** will be presented to anyone with **35+** weeks and will receive an individualized **Christian t-shirt** that could be worn and admired anywhere anytime but are perfect for Sundays, youth group events, Calls to Worship, Mission Trips, etc.

Our **Sponsors** continue to support our Sunday School program spiritually and financially. Sponsors donate \$25 or an amount of their choice for small incidental purchases. Anyone interested should see Tina Harvey or Linda Gillis. All help is appreciated!

Events and dates of importance will be advertised in the Good News and weekly bulletins. Our next event will be “**Movie Night Under the Stars**”. Think about coming out and joining the team!!!!

Our team is really looking forward to a blessed and productive year, we are super excited about new opportunities to come together and worship in his name!

In his service,
Tina



Daytime Bible Study to Resume in September

The pastor’s week day Bible study will resume on Tuesday, the 15th of September at 1:30PM in the lounge.

Because the former pastor had not yet concluded the Gospel Account of John, the Interim Pastor will begin in John’s Account, chapter 12. We will examine this Gospel Account from that point to its conclusion in chapter 21. John’s Account is unique among the four Gospel Accounts that are in the Bible. John’s is not a synoptic account or narrative account of Jesus’ life and ministry. John’s is later than the other three accounts. And it is written for a purpose, as John wrote himself in chapter 20, “...but these [accounts] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ [or Messiah], the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”. John’s stories are designed to convince people to receive Jesus into their lives and by so doing have life through Jesus.

After we conclude John’s Account, we will begin the examination of the beginning of the Bible. Actually, we will begin before the beginning.

Before Abraham and before Moses there were ancient civilizations in the Middle East that shaped the events that led to the Lord’s choosing Abraham and the Hebrew people. We will take a look at the prelude to Genesis from the era that began 12,000 years ago so we can deepen our understanding of Genesis, which we will study in detail.

And, if there is sufficient interest, there will be a second track of Bible studies for those who cannot attend a daytime session. This session will be held in the evenings, possibly Wednesdays, beginning with the question of what happened before Genesis.

Was God creating for millennia before anyone made a record? When did it start?

We will also Eden in a section entitled, “Between the Tigris and the Euphrates”. This topic will also touch on Darwin, anthropology and the subject of behavioral anthropology as it relates to Biblical studies.

Join the pastor, (Interim), for either of these opportunities to deepen your Biblical knowledge.

Christian Readers Book Club

Please join the Christian Readers Book Club in Cobb Lounge on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. We are going to be discussing the book *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. It is a story about a daughter who has just married off her last daughter but still has to contend with her mother - Lenore Krackenberry. She finds her Mom to be very overbearing. Then she discovers a secret about her Mom's past that

changes her whole outlook on herself, her family, and her future. Please come join us to find out what the secret was. Also - remember to bring a list of books for us to read this coming year. Hope to see you there.



Women's Circles

his message.

After our summer break we will return to our Bible study of 2 Corinthians. If you remember from our previous lessons, Paul and Timothy have returned to the church Paul founded in Corinth because some problems had developed. Most of the church had responded to Paul's preaching, however some were doubting Paul and his words, confused by false teachers who taught a different message. Join us in September as we see how Paul defends his authority and

The **Sarah Circle** will meet in Cobb Lounge at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 2nd. The **Ruth Circle** will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, September 4th in the home of Betsy Cunius. The **Martha Circle** will meet at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 10th in the home of Carol Thomas. Please join us at the time and place that best meets your schedule. You will be warmly welcomed as we meet for study and fellowship.

CARE BOXES FOR COLLEGE 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 18!**

Please print clearly:

Student Name: _____

College/University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Major: _____

Projected year of Graduation: _____





Worship News

What a great summer!!!!

Thank you, Kassie Little, and all those who blessed our church with such wonderful music. Isaac & Georgina Umoren had a family reunion, and we put their son-in-law, Rev. Cyril Bassey (all the way from Nigeria) to work. Although I believe it was for him a labor of love, we truly enjoyed hearing him preach how we should live our lives like Abraham.

We have a lot more planned in the near future. The Holland family will be here in Sept. and we are planning a treat for Oct. Keep posted!

Communion will now return to its regularly scheduled 1st SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

Have a Blessed month!!

Karen



Mission

Mission/Evangelism for September

The Bakely House: Our guests have settled nicely into their new home in the Bakely House.

The Mission Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped clean and prepare the Bakely Mission House and move our guests.

Gayle Ackerman, Ann Wallace, Nancy Conover, and Karen Muldoon for putting together a welcome basket of cleaning supplies, kitchen items and toiletries for our guests.

The cleaning crew: Jean Delesantro, Betsy Eberhard, Karen Muldoon, Kris Jenoriki, Russ Adkisson, Bud Burgess, Billy Leconey, and Naida Burgess

The moving crew: Russ Adkisson (would not have been possible without your Truck), Barbara Hughes, Chris Hughes, Justin Hughes, Bobby Hudak, Bud Burgess, Sam Burgess, Naida Burgess, Billy Leconey, and Nick Polsinelli

Family Promise: Leo Ransone has stepped forward as our Family Promise Coordinator. This is a big undertaking and we will need to support him and the needs of this program every way possible. Together we can do it!

Away Mission Trip: We will contact the Christian Appalachian Project in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, in September to put in a request for an away mission trip in early to mid-July of 2016. More information will follow.

Family Retreat at Keswick: Perhaps next summer will be a good time for a family retreat.

Family Fun Day: Our third annual Fun Day turned out to be a great success. So many people contributed to the planning and preparation of the event. Even more were present on the day itself contributing one way or another. It made me feel proud of my church and church family. The people that came seemed interested in our programs. Over a dozen families asked to receive phone calls to talk about youth programming and Sunday School. One lady rode the van and attended church with us the very next day. We are grateful to all volunteers and to the musical groups that contributed to the success of the day such as John Channell and the Albert Hall Players, Pan Gravy, and to magician Greg Maiuro. This was a special day, indeed.

Our **next meeting** will take place on Saturday, September 12th at 9:30 am in the Cobb Lounge.

In His Service,
Priscilla Schultheis



As the summer months come to an end, the Deacons would like to thank all our church members who continue to donate to the Food Bank and St Jude's card recycle program. We donated over 200 pounds of food over the summer and sent off 20 pounds of recycled cards!! That is pretty impressive!! We will continue with both of these programs, so please continue with your generosity.

We would also like to welcome the new guests in our Bakely House and hope they find comfort and new friendships in Absecon.

The Deacons will resume their food ministry after Labor Day when visits are made to church members. If anyone is in need, please let us know.

The next Deacon meeting is Saturday, September 12th at 9:30 am in Madden Hall.

Yours In Christ,

Kris Jenoriki, Moderator
Anita Brown, Vice Moderator



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Have you happened to see our Mission Garden? It may not be very big (or very pretty) but it sure is producing! To date over 185 lbs. of produce have been donated to the Community Food Bank in Egg Harbor Twp. That's amazing! And the season's not over yet. Many thanks to Lee and volunteers for the many hours they've put in over the summer.

By Giving Just a Few Minutes of Your Time

After an extended hospital stay and time in Absecon Manor during the month of June, Frank Loeb emailed the following letter to be included in the newsletter. As this was received after the summer issue was published, I will share it with you now. Please know that every prayer, every phone call,

every visit, every note, every encouraging word you offer to any close friend, acquaintance, or stranger at any time and for whatever reason is greatly appreciated. ~ G

Dear Friends

I never find it easy to keep messages of gratitude, love along with a dozen other positive emotions concise. If I were to mention every name of persons who were generous with their time, their concern and their love would require a separate paragraph standing alone which would serve little purpose!

Instead, let me express the wonder and depth of concern we have always encountered whenever a member of our family have pulled up sick.

With all of the trouble going on in the world, it is easy to forget that people can be kind and caring regardless of the negative social forces at work on all of us today. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your smiles but, especially, thank you for sharing yourselves with us at a time it when, indeed, they were very much needed.

Your visits to the hospital were extremely helpful. Your calls and driving help contributed, to a considerable degree, to Marge's ability to maintain her morale. To both of us you all represent a level of Christian friendship we hope we can emulate.

Gratefully,
Frank & Marge Loeb



Reminder of Redemption

Over the last year as I have worked on my final project for a Master's Degree in Christian Formation and Discipleship, the Biblical concept of redemption has come up time and time again. In the context of our journey here on earth, God so often reveals His amazing love by redeeming some aspect of our story. That redemption can come in many ways. This concept is wisely stated in Genesis in the life of Joseph, "Don't you see, you planned evil against me but God used those same plans for my good" - (Gen. 50: 20, MSG.)

I was struck by this again recently when I was talking with a childhood friend. We had not seen each other for a while and she wanted me to meet her 14 month old granddaughter. She shared with me how God used this precious little girl to bring a strong message of redemption in her life. When we were in high school, this friend called me up one June 11 and told me her Dad had just walked out on their family. She was understandably in tears as she described what had happened that morning while her Mom was at work. I still remember exactly where I was sitting in my house when I received that phone call - you see her Dad was a very influential person in my life since my Dad had died. We both cried tears over the phone in disbelief. He left and never came back. June 11 was forever seared in my friend's heart as the day she and her family were left. This summer, as we were talking about her granddaughter, my friend said, "guess what happened through my granddaughter's birth?" When her daughter called to tell her Mom she was pregnant, she announced, "My due date is June 5th." My friend thought oh no, that is so close to June 11th - she began praying, "Dear God, please don't let this baby be born on June 11th, I hate that date." As her daughter's pregnancy progressed, the due date was adjusted to

June 25th. Again, my friend silently in her heart begged God not to allow her first grandchild to be born on June 11th. She wrestled in prayer over this, not even sharing her fear with her husband or daughter. At one point, a few months before the due date, my friend was praying and asking God NOT to have the baby born on June 11th and God clearly challenged her, “What if I want to redeem that date in your life?” What? My friend had never thought of it from that perspective. Redeem June 11th, really? As she thought about it, she then began to get excited. You mean, June 11th could be a great date in my life? YES, God, please let this baby be born on June 11th. Well, as June rolled around and her daughter went through her final weeks of doctor’s visits, it was obvious the doctor was sticking to his June 25 prediction. On June 10th, my friend’s daughter went in for an appointment, came home and again told her Mom - everything is still on track for June 25th. My friend was disappointed to say the least. She really thought this date would be redeemed. She had momentarily forgotten that our awesome God so often enjoys a flair for the dramatic - after all, it makes such a GREAT story! In the early hours of June 11th, around 4am, my friend received a text from her daughter . . . “Mom, in labor, on the way to the hospital”. My friend sat up in bed and began to cry. Her husband was distraught, what is wrong, is everything ok? My friend spoke out through her tears, “He is going to do it, He is going to redeem June 11th”. She then had to explain the whole thing to her husband who was a bit out of the loop of her prayer conversations for the last few months! Sure enough, as this year rolled around, my friend told me that she greatly anticipated June 11th and all the celebration around her granddaughter’s 1st birthday. She said to me, “June 11th isn’t the day we were left anymore, it is the day my granddaughter was born!”

That, my friends, is how our awesome, amazing God rewrites our stories with a pen of redemption! As I have shared this story, others have told me similar incidences of God redeeming a date or event in their life. I head off to Australia in September and will experience my own redemptive gift from God. The graduation ceremony for my Master’s will be on September 10th, my Dad’s birthday. Dad was never able to attend my 8th grade, high school, or college graduation. How gracious of God to orchestrate this gift to me, that my Master’s diploma will have my Dad’s birthday on it! I am overwhelmed with how detailed and mind-blowing God’s redemption works!

Thank you for your continued prayers - this fall is full for me as I teach and/or staff in one of our schools in Orlando, Ireland, Turkey, Switzerland and Colorado. I may catch a glimpse of you all as I come in and out. I look forward to sharing more redemptive stories!

Love,
Lisa

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.





Thank You's For the Summer Months

Regular programming may have taken a break for the summer, but that doesn't mean there was nothing to do. Special thanks go out to these (and probably some others we've missed):

- Our Fellowship and Manse Renovation Committees for a great Meet and Greet barbecue. We had an opportunity to officially welcome Pastor Tom and see the manse renovations.
- Our Deacons and helpers who assisted with the luncheon following Frank Loeb's funeral. Our prayers continue to go with Marge and her family.
- The Mission Committee, Deacons and volunteers who readied the Bakely House for the new family and helped them move in the middle of July.
- The Christian Education Committee and volunteers who lead the after-program following VBS classes at Beacon July 13-16.
- Don Wong who checked all the emergency lighting, replacing or fixing fixtures as needed. Alphabet Alley and Mrs. Barnes' Play House both have received their annual certificates from the city fire inspector. (The inspector was really impressed with the one(s) with the spotlight in the bottom.)
- Gayle Ackerman and the Fellowship Committee for arranging the annual Dinner/Cruise on July 22. Have you seen the photos?
- Dawn Duran and the Fellowship Committee for another great day at Egg Harbor Lake on Aug. 9. Always a fun time!
- Lee Wolff, Denise Lenz, Marilyn Rosado, Maria Carreno and others who have been tending to our Mission Garden. During two weeks in August they took over 50 lbs. of fresh produce to the Community Food Bank. Imagine what the entire season's total will be!
- Our Mission Committee and the amazing number of volunteers who planned and carried out our Family Fun Day on Aug. 15. Great job!
- Vic Werner, Kassie Little, Neil Plum, Richard Garrick for providing special music during summer worship. May God continue to bless your ministries.



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A deposit was made to our General Fund on June 4, 2015 in the amount of \$312.00. The receipt was left in the treasurer's mailbox without any notation as to who made this deposit or which line item to credit. If this was your transaction, please call Marge Chapman as soon as possible so your group, committee, or event can receive proper credit!



Evergreens Meet Sept. 23 at Noon

Evergreens will meet at noon on Wednesday, Sept, 23rd. Bring your favorite sandwich, dessert and coffee provided. Come for friendship, fellowship, food.

This is our first meeting for the fall wherein we will make plans for future meetings.

Fran Weir, leader



A Special Update on Harpist, Greg Buchanan

He is progressing slowly after emergency brain surgery (in S. California) and is deeply touched by the number of people across the country and around the world who continue to pray for his complete recovery.

We hope to re-schedule him at a future date...as the Lord provides! (Greg had long ago been invited to present his unique Christian Harp Concert for our Sept. 18th congregational event – now sadly, cancelled.)

Dawn Duran, Fellowship Chair



From the Office

Our administrative assistant will be on vacation September 8-14. Pastor Tom will be in the office at various times most days. Please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Church Directory Update

Paul & Marjorie Hamer
Brandywine Senior Living
432 Central Avenue, #206
Linwood, New Jersey 08221

Jim Maurer
7927 State Road 52, Apt. 314
Bayonet Point, FL 34667-6783



Thanks So Much!

Melvin Washington thanks everyone for their cards, prayers and visits during his hospital stay in July.

* * * * *

To my church family and friends,

A big thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, visits to the hospital during my stay for thirteen days [in July]. The good wishes and prayers worked; I feel much better.

Thank you again,
Irene Hunter

(Irene was readmitted to the hospital during the week of August 9. Our prayers continue for her healing.)

* * * * *

I can't begin to tell you how much your messages of sympathy meant to me in my sorrow. It helps tremendously to know how well Jack was liked.

Warmly,
Dottie (Hanlon)

* * * * *

Our most sincere thank you to so many of you who supported and prayed for us during Frank's illness and passing. All of your kind visits, phone calls, notes, prayers, food and love gave both of us strength to get through such a sad and difficult time. Your continued support and caring after his passing keeps me guided.

Thank you all ---- Marjorie S. Loeb and Family

* * * * *



All are welcome to American Legion Post 28's 27th Annual Family Friendly Beef & Beer event on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 4-7pm. Adult roast beef dinner for \$15 includes fries, bean, cole slaw, apple sauce & desert (hot dogs available). Pony rides, face painting and a bounce house are included with a \$7 children's ticket. Live music by Mike Crosson. For tickets call Walt Krouse at 641-6786.



Lay Assistants

06 10:00
13 9:30
11:00
20 9:30
11:00
27 9:30
11:00

Head Ushers

06 10:00 Vic & Rita Abelson
13 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
11:00 Tina Brown, Jean Delesantro
20 9:30 Barbara & Bob Hudak
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
27 9:30 Naida & David Burgess
11:00 Nancy Swank, Joanna Howell

Offering (9:30)

06 (10:00) Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
13 Jack & Dee Heil
20 Ilsa Smith, Edith Budd
27 Frances Weir, Greg Hamaty

Deacon for the Month

Jackie Bhatti

Acolyte (9:30)

13 Franklin Nale
20 Libby Little
27

Nursery (11:00 Sarah Gillis)

06 (10:00) Gloria Achamizo
13 Jennifer Platt
20 Jordan Hawkes
27 Gloria Achamizo

Van Drivers

06 John Channell
13 Barb Hughes
20 Tina Brown
27 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

06 Ginny Davenport, Shirley Smith
13 Betsy Eberhard, Louise Lifka
20 Minerva Baig, Tina Harvey
27 Patti & Dennis Scardilli, Loretta Metz

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

06 Set-up – Libby Little
Cook – Ed Little
Clean-up – Ginny & Bill Davenport
13 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
20 Set-up –
Cook –
Clean-up –
27 Set-up – Jordan & Christian Hawkes
Cook – Bryan Hawkes
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

Counter Schedule

06 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover
13 Barbara & Bob Hudak
20 Deb & Don Wong
27 Judy & Dave Stebbins

