

June 2016

Good News

Verse of the Month: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4: 6-7



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 - Website: abseconpresby.org



“What Are All Those Overtures And Amendments About Which We Keeping Hearing During The Presbyterian General Assembly And What Does It Have To Do With Us?”

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered what happens at the General Assembly, (GA), meetings of our national church? Before the meeting, which is in Portland, Oregon this year during the third full week in June, lots of overtures are forwarded to GA from Presbyteries all around the country. So far, this year has seen quite a few to be considered in June.

If these overtures are approved by the GA, they go back to the presbyteries for ratification. If they receive the required votes, the overtures become amendments to the Book of Order, Directory for Worship or the Book of Discipline, all part of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rarely, a change is recommended to the Book of Confessions, Part One of the constitution.

Many of these overtures cover procedural matters, but some are substantive regarding actions of the various councils of the Church. The Session of our congregation has asked me to communicate to you regarding this year's overtures.

Remember; these overtures have not yet been passed and no vote has yet been taken. If any of them do pass, they will be published for the presbyters and I will report on those that do receive passing votes. For now, these are only proposed amendments.

I will just touch on a few, such as the overture regarding requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the presbyteries to change the constitution from Foothills Presbytery or the two overtures from Santa Fe and St. Andrews Presbyteries about merging the office of the General Assembly and the Mission Agency. There is also an overture from Saint Andrew Presbytery regarding election of moderators of General Assemblies and one from Foothills on renewing reformed polity for the 21st century. All these are important to be sure, but they have not generated significant controversy within the Church at large.

There is at least one and possibly more possible amendments regarding divestment of denominational investments from fossil fuels corporations. While there is some disagreement about the effectiveness of such divestments in terms of economic impact, there is some sentiment that the Church should not invest in such fuels. Not all agree, of course and not all agree that it is within the church's purview.

There was an overture from the Presbytery of Northern New York, (234-87), regarding the sanctuary movement and refugees that was adopted in 1987, but which has come up again at least in conversations. It challenged the 1980 Refugee Act. The overture advocated changes in U.S. foreign assistance that would stop the cycle of violence to refugees. It called for governing bodies, (what are now called, “councils”), to resource congregations working with refugees. There are

presently no overtures pending. However, the effectiveness of the adopted amendment has been discussed, but no resolutions have been received at this point. This may be a non-issue as I believe that the agenda for the GA meeting has been set.

The overture that has received attention recently through the *Presbyterian Layman* and other sources is the so-called, “Apology Overture” from the New York City Presbytery.

It is designated “Recommendation 2.b, item 11-05, 222nd General Assembly, PCUSA. It calls for the Church to apologize for the teachings that have created marginalization of our sisters and brothers, adding to the erroneous belief that people who identify as LGBTQ/Q, (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), should be considered unworthy to serve fully or be honored as family within and without the church.”

As expected, there are at least two views of this overture. Those who support it claim that it will, like the truth and reconciliation commissions in South Africa, lead to a just reconciliation within the church after generations of oppression of homosexual and transgendered persons.

Those who do not support the overture, (now, item 11-05), claim that the overture violates the protections of conscience promised by the 221st General Assembly, which legislated permissive language concerning same-gender marriage while promising that churches and clergy would retain freedom of conscience concerning same-gender marriages.

Those in opposition claim that this overture would force clergy and churches to participate in the condemnation of their own deeply held beliefs on marriage. Those who support the proposed amendment claim that no such condemnation would befall those who disagree on the majority’s opinion.

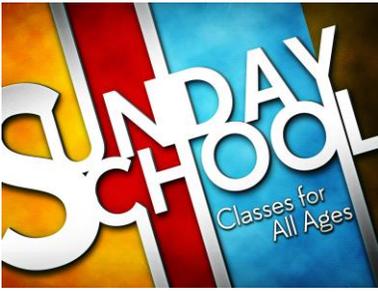
Your Session voted that this overture is not the path to reconciliation and wrote to the stated clerk of the Presbytery of West Jersey to express that opinion.

There are many other overtures to be considered by the General Assembly this month. I will let you know which of them will be considered by the presbyteries as soon as I am informed.

Until then, have a great summer and...I’ll see you in church.

Grace and peace,
Tom Purchase, Interim Pastor





Sunday School and Related News Summer Edition 2016

We closed the 2015-2016 early this year due to the changing of the church schedule. We held our annual youth and teacher recognition on May 22, 2016. We had a terrific year, our attendance stayed strong; we even added a few kids and we were blessed with the fellowship we shared. I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to our Teachers and Aides who so lovingly gave their time and talents to our kids this year. Our program would not exist without their love and support. Also, I would like to thank the many people that lent their hands and hearts to our program throughout the year. The Lord has truly blessed our program and our kids. Hopefully we will all enjoy some summer relaxation and come back renewed and ready for an exciting fall. Here is the plan for summer.

Upcoming Events

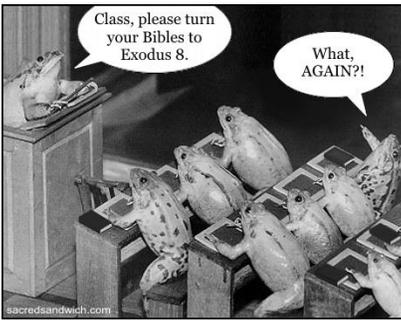
- ◆ The 40 Minute Club will begin on **July 10th, 2016**. It is a summer program run by volunteer teachers and aides. These adults take a turn or two leading the group with a Bible lesson and craft project to follow. The program will continue through the Labor Day weekend. A 40 Min Club schedule will be posted in the vestibule on the bulletin board. Reminder postcards will be sent to teachers and aides as a courtesy prior to the scheduled week.
- ◆ Come out for a Pizza and Movie night. **June 10, 2016** the Sunday School will be hosting a movie night with the feature **“The Good Dinosaur”** being shown. There will be pizza, popcorn & refreshing lemonade. A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board soon. Please be sure to sign up so we have a head count.
- ◆ On **August 21st** the Sunday School will be going to the **Cape May Zoo** for its third annual picnic with some zoo fun. The Church Van will be leaving at noon and will return around 4 pm. Details will be announced soon. All are Welcome!!!! We had a great time last year, see ya there.
- ◆ Let us pray for all our teachers, teacher aides, and sponsors. May they feel refreshed throughout the summer and return safely & joyfully to His service this fall.

Once again, thanks to all who have supported us throughout the year and Have a happy and safe summer!

In His Service, Tina

Graduate recognitions will take place Sunday, June 21. Forms are available in your bulletins or from our website and are to be returned by Sunday, June 12.

Adult Bible Studies Final Segments Of The Season



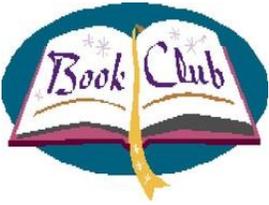
The Interim Pastor's two adult Bible Studies will wrap up the spring term with explorations of two books of the Bible.

The daytime study that meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30PM to 2:30PM in the lounge is exploring the book of Exodus in historical context as well as for its theological significance.

The evening study that meets at the Manse, (221 West Church Street in Absecon), on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM, is studying the book of the prophet Jeremiah who also is given credit for the books of Kings and Lamentations. Jeremiah's work spans the period immediately before and during the Babylonian conquest of Judah and the captivity of the royal family and many others in Babylon, which is modern day Baghdad. We will explore some of the history that led to the conquest and its theological significance as well.

Join us for one or both of these studies. We will continue until the summer schedule begins after Father's Day.

Christian Readers Book Club



A good summer read! We will be reading "The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson.

An adventurous story mixed with history and fun! Join us on July 20 to discuss this book.



The Following Revised Worship Schedule Will Begin In June:

June 5, 12, 19

- 9:30 am worship service: children stay to worship with their families (no Sunday school)
- 11:00 am worship service continues unchanged

June 26, July 3

- 10 am single worship service, children worship with families (no second service)

July 10-December 2016

- 9:00 am-9:45 am Sunday school for children and adults
- 10:00 am single worship service, children stay to worship with their families

These schedule changes will be evaluated in mid-October which will include a congregational survey.

Special Services:

- Christmas Eve (12/24, Saturday) 2 services: 6 pm and 7:30 pm
- Christmas Day (12/25, Sunday) 1 service: 11 am carols/lessons
- New Year's Day (1/1/17, Sunday) 1 service: 11 am

Priscilla Schultheis has agreed to become a member of the Worship Committee.

Special music is being scheduled in July/August; Thanks to Harold/Joan/Anna Mae

- Jul: TBA
- Aug 7: Ms. Sharon Neff
- Aug 14: The Holland Family
- Aug 21: TBA
- Aug 28: TBA

Starting June 26: 9:45-10 am hymn sing.

David Burgess, Chair



2016 Flower Chart

The 2016 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

Mission/Evangelism for June

Advertising: Our church is now being advertised in the local Current newspapers. It provides an overview of the church schedule on Sunday morning. It's nice to see our name in the paper. The Mission Auction information and the Camp Information can now be found on our website as well.

The Bakely House: All goes well with the Bakely House. It looks like the electric meter or water meter will be updated. Russ has addressed the latch on the new storm door and will probably adjust the tension on the spring as in the near future.

Family Promise: We decided that the most efficient way to wash sheets and blankets after use is to take them all to the laundromat and absorb the cost with our budget line for Family Promise.

We have received 2 blankets to date and would like to receive 18 more. Perhaps we can promote this effort with a blanket tree much like an angel tree.

We are in the process of lining the shelves in our filing cabinets in the game room to store the sheets, blankets, and Family Welcome Kits of moisturizers, small bars or soap, etc. Betty Price took on the task of collecting and preparing the family kits along with lining the shelves.

It appears that the anticipated opening is now July pending insurance approvals.

Recycled Shoes: Great job everyone. The shoes keep on coming. We are nearly ready to send off our 4th round of shoes.

Camp Johnsonburg on the Road: We now have 28 kids signed up for camp with room for 17 more. Please promote this opportunity as much as possible. Everyone can help with this. The camp will run from Aug 1- Aug 5. We'll be putting up 3 certified staff members who will run the camp. We will supply adult and teen volunteers. Before and after camp care is available as needed. The cost is just \$50 for the week. If child care is desired between 8:00-9:00am and/or between 4:00-6:00 pm there will be an additional cost of \$10.00.

Health Kits: Russ and Carol Thomas are in the process of boxing up and shipping out the 180 or so First Night Hygiene Kits made by the Sunday School, King of Kings, and church members. Thank you all for such a tremendous response.

Real Partners Uganda: The Mission Auction to support Mustard Seed Academy is scheduled for June 18th. This takes place at the Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church. The event takes place from 6:00-8:00 pm. The event includes delicious food, chance items, silent auction items, and live auction items such as 5 possible vacation trips throughout the U.S. We'll be hanging an awesome banner advertising this event on the end lot for the community to see. Anyone is welcome to donate a service, item, or basket of goodies to be auctioned off. Items need to be delivered to Priscilla by May 27th. Feel free to ride over in the van which will leave at 5:15 pm. Tina Brown will be the driver so you know she'll get you there and back safely and in style. Several of our committee members have volunteered to assist at the auction. You can expect to see Leo Ransone, Betty Price, Louise Speitel, and Priscilla Schultheis at the registration tables or greeting you at the door.

Family Fun Day: Our next Family Fun Day will take place on Saturday, August 27th from 12:00-4:00 pm. This falls on the weekend before Labor Day weekend. Our rain date will be scheduled for Saturday, September 10th which falls on the weekend after Labor Day weekend. We wanted this event to take place very near the beginning of all fall programming. We worked out most of the details at our most recent meeting and decided to continue advertising with the use of door hangers. Quite a few members of the committee stepped forward to help with distribution on August 13, 2016. We are willing to entice any of our young people to help with our distributions with a \$10 gift for their assistance. We will rent the large tent, tables, chairs, bounce house, and giant water slide. We'll have pony rides, live music, field games, bingo, face painting, and a magician. We'll have free hot dogs and hamburgers along with all the fixings. We'll even be using our own popcorn machine. We're pleased that all small tents and grills have been purchased in the past and expect our expenses to be lower this year.

Disaster Relief: We decided to send \$500 for relief to PDA in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan.

Mission in the Field: We voted to send \$500 to Reverend Dr. Effiong J. Udo, who is a mission pastor in Nigeria. We had the honor of Rev. Udo's presence with us as he worshipped with us each Sunday for about a month. Rev. Udo sent us a letter describing his work in the mission field. He is currently establishing 5 churches in Nigeria despite the dangers of Boko Haram terrorists in the country. He has asked for our collaboration and assistance. We felt honored to help.

Pew Cards: We are pleased to place pew cards in the church for visitors to complete. We ask that lay assistants welcome visitors each week, draw their attention to the pew cards, and invite them to join us for refreshments following the service.

New Business: The committee discussed the condition of the inserts at the front of the hymn books and recommended that we go through the books and replace the ones in poor condition.

Our next meeting will take place on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 9:30 am in the Cobb Lounge.

In His Service, Priscilla Schultheis



The Deacons are very appreciative of all the monetary donations which our church members make weekly using the special offering envelopes which are found in the pew racks. As you know, the Deacons receive no money from the church budget and operate solely on your donations. Since the beginning of April, we have distributed 8 fruit baskets and have delivered soup and sweets to our family members who have been ill or recently returned home from the hospital or long term care facilities.

We had a very successful Friendship/Bereavement Luncheon in April with over 50 people in attendance. We would like to thank Gay Channell for designing and printing the beautiful invitations and programs, Harold Hawkes for providing the music and Rev Tom Purchase, Jr for our blessing and benediction. We hope the luncheon served as a source of support for those who attended.

We continue with our Food Bank donations and within the past 6 weeks have collected 114 pounds in donations. We are so appreciative of your support and also for the many greeting card fronts which continue to pour in for St Jude's Ranch for Children.

The Deacons have also started a Deacon of the Month who will provide assistance to any church member with any need which may arise such as emotional or financial support, visits, phone calls, etc. The names of the Deacon will be posted in the bulletin weekly and in the Presby Post. Please let us know if you or a family member are in need of our services at any time.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Deacon board who helps me do my job on a daily basis. They are an awesome group to work with.

Yours In Christ,
Kris Jenoriki, Moderator



Stewardship News

Our offerings totaled \$38,872 for the first quarter of the year. By comparison our offerings totaled \$45,630 through the first quarter of 2015. April giving totaled \$9,956.20 versus \$12,399.28 in 2015.

Net rental income was \$7,550.21 through the end of April. Our net rental income is making up for the decline in our regular giving. The rental properties are a very important source of funds for our finances.

Our General Fund began the year with \$75,494.32. At the end of April it stood at \$63,347.76. The first quarter has some one time expenditures such as the Per Capita charge from the West Jersey Presbytery and our Church insurance policy renewal. Contributions from the McMullin Fund, the net rentals and other miscellaneous income have also contributed to the balance. We have also been utilizing our anonymous contributions designated for specific purposes to assist us with physical upgrades such as the new carillon and the King of Kings program.

We must “Continue Rowing Together” to meet our budgetary needs in 2016.

Kirk Conover
Stewardship Chair

FUNdraising Committee

By the time this newsletter comes out, we will have had another successful Golf Tournament. Thank you to Karen Muldoon and her Golf Committee for a job well done.

We will be having another bus trip to Sight and Sound on Columbus Day, Oct 10th, to see Samson. We will be starting our ticket sale this summer so please keep an eye out for them. Details will follow as they become available.

In Christian Love,
Dawn Duran



Thank you to Joanie Hoenes for organizing another successful Congregational Concert and to Nancy Sooy for cooking a delicious ham dinner. Thank you, also, to the several people that helped out in any way that day. Everyone enjoyed the musical talents of Bryan Poppin, and we were delighted with a surprise ending of our own Vic Werner singing the *Lord's Prayer*.

Our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on Friday, June 3rd, from 6-8PM in Madden Hall. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. We are currently looking for donations of cakes (pound cake, shortcake, angel food cake, etc.), ice cream and whipped toppings. Please sign up for donations in the vestibule if you are able to make a donation. We are also looking for people to cut and clean strawberries as well as set-up, serving, and clean-up. Please contact Dawn

Duran if you can help out in any way. Thank you in advance for your support of our longest running yearly church event.

We are also planning on doing another dinner cruise this summer. Please be on the lookout for more details as they become available.

Then on Sunday, August 14th, we will be having our annual picnic at the lake after church. This will be held at the Egg Harbor City Lake and Campground. The cost will be \$4 for adults (this is the cost to enter the lake); the church will be paying for the children. That said, it is important that we know ahead of time, how many people are planning to attend. The church is also providing the hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, and drinks, but we are asking whoever is attending to please bring a side dish or a dessert to share.

As the summer approaches we will be returning to serving the refreshments outside (weather permitting), we are asking for a team of people to help with setting up a table and trash receptacles outside before church service and then bringing them back in following the refreshments. Please contact Dawn Duran if you can help out.

The last breakfast of the year will be June 19th. Thank you to Bill Hoesten for coordinating breakfast each week and thank you to everyone that has helped with, set-up, cooking, and clean-up throughout the year. We truly could not have done it without each one of you!

Our next Fellowship meeting will be held on Monday June 20th at 7PM in Cobb Lounge.

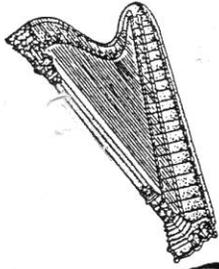
In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran, Chairperson



Evergreens News

Evergreens will not be meeting in June, July or August. We resume Wednesday, September 28th at noon.

Have a safe, happy summer.



Your Fellowship
COMMITTEE---

Proudly presents:



Greg Buchanan

in concert...

- 7pm -

FRI

Sept. 16th
2016

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. 14th)
\$15 AD 5p + 6p \$5 "child"

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, DC. 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.



Thanks, Church Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. The shawl helped to bring me comfort in the early stages of my healing. Having been the church I attended as a child, it was so kind to still be thought of now that I am an adult. Thank you again for your prayers of healing.

Sincerely,
Alison Smith (Gee)



Absecon American Legion Post 28 will be holding its 10th annual Pig Roast on Saturday, June 18th, from 4 to 7:00 PM. The event will take place on the Legion Grounds at New Jersey and Mill Road in Absecon. In case of rain the event will be held in the Post Hall. Tickets are \$15.00 for a full dinner including Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Apple Sauce and a free beverage. \$7.00 Children's menus are also available. Additionally, take outs are available for those who are on the go.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or through Walt Krouse who can be reached at 641-6786. Proceeds from the event are used to support community projects.



Serving in June

Lay Assistants

- 05 9:30 David Burgess
11:00 Dawn Duran
12 9:30 David Burgess
11:00 Lee Wolff
19 9:30 Dennis Scardilli
11:00
26 10:00 David Burgess

Head Ushers

- 05 9:30 Vic & Rita Abelson
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
12 9:30 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
11:00 Nancy Swank, Tina Brown
19 9:30 Kirk & Nancy Conover
11:00 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
26 10:00

Offering (9:30)

- 05 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
12 Jack & Dee Heil
19 Roy Birkbeck
26 10:00 Kris Jenoriki, Carol Kleiner

Acolyte (9:30)

- 05 Franklin Nale
12 Jacob Sabo
19 Jack Little

Nursery (11:00 Sarah Gillis)

- 05 Gloria Achamizo
12 Jennifer Platt
19 Jordan Hawkes
26 Gloria Achamizo

Deacon of the Month

Anita Brown

Van Drivers

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

Refreshment Hosts

- 05 Russ & Lynn Adkisson, Judy & David Stebbins
12 Lee Wolff, Louise Speitel & Joe Marshall
19 Ginny Davenport, Betsy Eberhard
26 Fellowship Committee

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

- 05 Set-up –
Cook – Melvin Washington
Clean-up – Ginny Davenport
12 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
19 Set-up – Donna Hughes
Cook – Bill Hoesten
Clean-up – Dirk Williamson

Counter Schedule

- 05 Judy & David Stebbins
12 Leo Ransone, Nancy Conover
19 Gerald Hoenes, Betsy Torjussen
26 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover

