

October 2016

Good News

Verse of the Month: “Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11: 28



Sunday, Oct. 30 4:00p - 7:00p

The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

208 New Jersey Avenue

Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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

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Spiritual Formation Is Formation in the Way of the Christ From the IP's Window

A few years ago, my wife gave me a book entitled, *Common Prayer a Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Enuma Okoro. I have used this little book of prayers and essays for my own devotions and occasionally as the basis of my blogs.

In an essay at the start of the October daily prayers, the authors address the subject of spiritual formation. This subject has been discussed quite a bit in religious circles for the last few years. There are specializations in spiritual formation in studies at seminaries as well as in churches, especially among Protestants. The truth is that for us, as Christians, spiritual formation is more appropriately called, "formation in the way of Christ".

Part of that formation is finding ways to create new disciplines in our worshipping bodies where goodness triumphs. We worship in communities. Churches are unlike other organizations in that we are communities of faith, which are called together by God through Jesus Christ in order to worship Almighty God and grow together spiritually as a people of faith.

The idea of community is fairly popular today. The longing for community is in all of us, according to the authors of *Common Prayer a liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*. We long to be a part of a loving community. But, if that community does not exist for something beyond ourselves, it will atrophy; that is to say that it will shrivel and die. That is where spiritual discipline comes in to play.

We will fall short of God's will for us to form a new humanity with practices that offer hope and good news to the world, if we follow the common culture rather than the way of Christ. As followers of Jesus, we have distinct ways of living, different than the common culture of consumption.

Our homes as well as our churches can become places of solace and hospitality. That, however, does not happen without intentional planning and activity. Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker movement, wrote, "We have to create an environment where it is easier to be good".

If we are looking for a more ancient model for this kind of spiritual intentionality, which leads to spiritual formation, we have only to look at Francis of Assisi. In Francis, not only can we see what it looks like to follow hard after Jesus, but also how we can celebrate the disciplines that have passed down to us from the early Church.

These spiritual disciplines have passed down to us from the first century AD. By those spiritual formations, we have become the Church even when we have forgotten them. This is the basis for the community that people long for even among people who have given up on the Church.

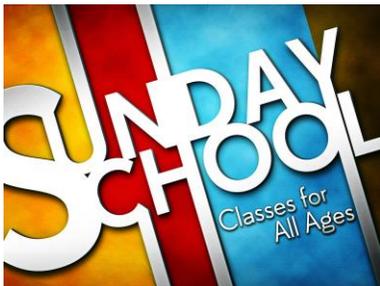
Our worshipping communities can still become places where people can detox from whatever has taken them away from God. We humans long for a space that guides us toward goodness and where we can pick up holy habits as we are formed into that new creation Jesus called us to be. We can be transformed by God, if we will open our hearts and minds to the leading of the Holy Spirit, especially as this worshipping body contemplates beginning new ministry and service with a new Pastor.

Peace for the journey,
Tom Purchase
Interim Pastor



A Prayer for Pastors

God bless our faithful pastors--they dedicate us, baptize us, marry us, bury us--and hold a special place in our hearts. We honor them, the sheep-watchers of the flock of God, and ask God's blessing and anointing on their lives and ministry. *Many thanks to Pastor Tom.*



Sunday School and Related News for October

Sunday school dedicated our rally day presentation to all those who lost their lives and to those who served to save and protect our country. Our theme this year is Blessed! We will focus on even in our darkest times such as 9/11 we are Blessed because we are children of God! Thanks to Joanne Sabo for her inspiration and choreography once again. We are blessed for all the teachers, aides, and kids that make our Sunday School program possible. We have a great team. We are grateful to our sponsors who have been very generous in their support of our program. Also, our lighthouse bulletin board teaches our kids to move towards the light of Jesus. We have moved our movie night to October 7, 2016. We opened up our classes September 18, 2016 with a new curriculum and are very excited to share new ways of learning about and loving our Lord.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ Our fourth annual **TRUNK OR TREAT** is scheduled for Sunday, October 30th from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Congregation members will have the chance to participate by decorating their cars and

giving out candies, kids will get goodies; there will be refreshments and a bonfire. Details will be announced in the weekly bulletins. Parents and other interested adults can sign up to participate. Come out and have a wonderful time. We are asking this year for candy donations so that our trick or treaters have some goodies to collect. Also, we are really in need of car participation; please think about coming out, it's a great time! Admission will be a canned good for the Food Bank.

- ◆ Outdoor movie night has been moved to October 7, 2016. We will be showing **Monsters University**, have a bonfire and enjoying some treats. Come out and enjoy a great night!
- ◆ Our **Christmas presentation** and the Birthday party for Jesus will be held on December 11, 2015. Bob Gillis and Priscilla Schultheis are bringing their talents together to bring us an amazing presentation, and will we have a fun birthday party celebrating the birth of our Lord. It will be a pot luck luncheon so bring your favorite dish.
- ◆ Our first Fellowship Sunday will be on December 18th. This is an opportunity for all the children to come together for some creativity, praising and fun. Grades Pre K-6 will be reporting to Madden Hall once dismissed from service. This first lesson will be on gifts the children will be creating things to share with those less fortunate.

I look forward to all our fall events. Stay tuned for the announcements.

In His Service,
Tina



Women's Circles

When we meet for our October meetings, our Bible lesson will be about forgiveness. We will especially look at Psalm 51 where David is pleading with God to take away his current state of sinfulness. His desire is for a clean heart and a right spirit which only God can provide. Offering and receiving forgiveness can be challenging for us. Yet, forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts we can give or receive. It is a gift that makes us whole again.

The Ruth Circle will meet at the home of Betsy Cunius at 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 7th. The Martha Circle will meet 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 13th at the home of Carol Thomas. All women of the church are encouraged to join us at the time and place that is best for you. We will be happy to see you and will welcome you warmly.





Worship Committee Report

The Music Director Search Committee has found no candidates for the permanent Music Director position as yet. The search continues. However, the Sunday Service music is set for October and will be provided by Mr. Harold Hawkes (Oct 2, Nov 6); Mr. Rick DeKarski (Oct 9, 16); and Ms. Dot Ryan (Oct 23, 30).

The single 10 AM Sunday Service, including the children, is now in place, and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Prayerfully submitted,
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/Evangelism for October

Correspondence: We received thank you letters from Community Food Bank, Mustard Seed Academy, CWS for the health kits, Presbytery Mission Agency for disaster relief, Karen Moritz, and One Great Hour of Sharing.

Advertising: Our church is 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. We are

looking into the cost and practicality of advertising in the **Four Seasons of Smithville newsletter**. We are going to display our banner of yearly events at the end of the cemetery fence closest to where we park the van so the public can see what's happening all year and hopefully join us for some of them.

The Bakely House: All goes well with the Bakely House. Our guests take excellent care of the house. Our next walk through inspection will take place in September.

Family Promise: At this point everyone is hoping to open the Day Center in October. An upcoming fundraiser will involve coin drops at key intersections. If anyone wishes to volunteer for this, see Priscilla. This information will then be passed on to Barbara Sabath. We are well stocked thanks to all your donations of sheets, and blankets. We also now have air mattresses! A minimum of two adults must sleep at the church along with our guests. We are ready! A coordinator's meeting will take place on September 21, 2016 so Leo Ransone will be there on our behalf. We are currently selling the **Friends Helping Friends coupons** that allow shoppers to get a 25% discount on anything they purchase at Boscov's on October 18, 2016. See Laurie McManus or Betty Price if you would like to purchase a ticket. This awesome event benefits Family Promise. We'll be looking for volunteers to help with food preparation, homework help, and recreational activities once we know when our church is scheduled to host the families.

Presbytery Disaster Assistance: At our September meeting, our committee decided to send \$500 to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to assist with the recent flooding in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Recycled Shoes: Two more boxes are full of shoes. Keep those shoes coming! Funds raised from this program will support our Family Promise ministry.

Real Partners Uganda: We have completed our collection for Christmas in September. We will tally the sum and send it off to Mustard Seed Academy promptly.

God Care People Ministry: Our Pakistani Christian friends are extremely grateful for funding recently received. They are most appreciative to buy food for the families in their church. They are extremely thankful for our support. We are now approved to place our church's name on the website so that anyone can donate to this ministry through our church. We will send all funds through Western Union. That way God Care People ministry will receive a greater portion of the funds intended for the program.

New Ideas: We discussed ways to outreach at Stockton University. It would be awesome to have a college age group doing a Bible Study and worshipping with us on Sundays!

Our next meeting will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 9:30 am in the Cobb Lounge.

In His Service, Priscilla Schultheis



A big thank you goes out to Dirk Williamson who has stepped up to drive the van on the second Sunday of the month. Even with all he has been through over the past 6 weeks, he found it in his heart to step up and help the church out when it is in need. That is a true Christian!! Thank you again, Dirk!!



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.



The Deacons are so very appreciative for your continued support towards the work we do. We delivered 2 fruit baskets this past month and took 305 pounds of food which was collected during the months of June, July and August to the Community Food Bank. A huge thank you goes out to Naida Burgess who takes the food over weekly and we are very thankful for her faithfulness.

Sunday, October 2nd is World Communion Sunday, so please come out and join us in the sacrament of Communion with other churches around the world.

On Sunday, November 13th the Deacons will be sponsoring Veteran's Appreciation Day. In the month of October, there will be an insert in the bulletin which we encourage you to fill out, to let us know if you have any family members who have served or are serving in any branch of the military. When completed, please put it in the offering plate so at the end of the month a list can be compiled which will then be in the insert of the bulletin on November 13th. Thank you so much for your participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a Deacon.

Our next Deacon meeting will be on Saturday, November 5th, at 9 am in Madden Hall.

Yours In Christ,
Kris Jenoriki, Moderator
Anita Brown, Vice Moderator

God's Great Tapestry



Two years ago I was asked to speak at Eastern University in Dr. Chris Hall's Spiritual Formation class. Dr. Hall had been a visiting professor in my Master's course and had invited me to share some stories of how God had led me in missions specifically regarding prayer. One of the stories I told was the first time I went to Asia in 1994 and how God led us in truly a miraculous way. Following the class, one of the students ran down the aisle to me and said, "I can't believe you told that story. I have been praying for that part of Asia and asking God if I should go to a Discipleship Training School with YWAM". She went on to say, "the timing of me being there and what I shared was really hitting her". It was so encouraging for me to hear this young woman share. I asked if I could pray for her concerning her future decisions. I shared my contact information with her and we exchanged a few emails that fall, 2014.

Fast forward to 2 weeks ago. I open up my computer and see an email. I recognized the name but couldn't quite place where I knew her from until I read the email. It was this same young woman who explained to me that in the last 2 years, she had traveled to Australia, completed a Discipleship Training School, is now in a secondary YWAM school and is headed to Asia. In her email she wrote - *"I've shared that story with everyone on my team! It's a testimony that I've carried with me the past two years, reminding me of God's provision and power!"* She then asked me if I could connect her with anyone who worked within a certain group of people in Asia. Well, as you know, I just returned from Asia and I was in the very same city that she and her team are going to this fall. I connected her with a friend of mine and they have already been in contact with one another.

When I stand back and think of this, I have to smile and am compelled to say "Thank You" to a God who truly leads and guides and invites us into His Great Plans, for people and for nations. WOW - a simple story told in a classroom in Pennsylvania, re-told to a team in Australia has been used by God to inspire and encourage a new generation of missionaries headed to Asia! Now THAT is our God! I look forward to the stories THIS young woman will have and am so grateful to be part of God's great tapestry - His amazing way of weaving stories, people and places together in a beautiful display of His kingdom worldwide! Thank YOU for being a part of that as you pray and so generously support me as I go.

With a grateful heart,
Lisa



FUNdraising

Just a friendly reminder that Oct. 10th is our annual bus trip to Sight and Sound. For anybody who has purchased tickets, please be at the church by 10AM that morning. The bus will depart the church promptly at 10 a.m., so don't be late.

In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Dawn Duran



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has already begun meeting and we are happy to report that we have one name in nomination for the unexpired term of Elder, that of Robert Hudak III.

We are currently searching for more Elders, Deacons, and Trustees to lead us into the future. Please prayerfully consider serving if you are called.

In His Service,
Dawn Duran, chairman



Property Committee Report

Glorious news for everyone, Fall Clean-up day is scheduled for October 15th, 9am till noon. Refreshments will be provided. This is the time to put the outdoor equipment away. Clean up around the outside of the church and get everything ready for winter. This is a rewarding work day for those that help. Hope to see everyone there to participate and to make light work of everything. (Many hands make light work.) Thank you in advance.

A special thanks to Franklin Nale for volunteering to help with the audio controls on the microphones for Sunday services. Thank you; we are blessed to have you helping with this duty.

At this time there are no big projects in the works. This is a good thing. We will be purchasing a snow blower for the winter to make light work of the snow shoveling and needing to pay for snow removal.

The windows in the Sunday School have been replaced over the summer. All 20 windows were replaced. Thank you for the donations from the past winter fund raiser to make this happen.

Again, hope to see everyone come out for fall clean-up day 🧑🍻

God Bless,
Dan Hughes
Property Committee Chairman



Fellowship Committee

Breakfast has started back up on Sept. 11th. The first couple of weeks the attendance for breakfast has been slow. We are not sure if this is due to the change in the worship schedule or if people are still just trying to get back into the "swing of things". Breakfast will continue to be served at 8:30 every Sunday morning until we review how well everything is going with the new schedule. We are also still looking for one more set-up person as well as a couple more people for clean-up.

On Sept. 16th we had our congregational concert, where we heard the wonderfully talented Greg Buchanan. I always loved the harp anyway but the way he jazzed it up was phenomenal. Thank you to Joanie Hoenes for organizing this wonderful event and thank you to Nancy Sooy for cooking the delicious pot pie dinners. Also, thank you to everyone that helped that day. There were quite a few people that were there helping all day long, and believe me I noticed all of your hard work and I certainly appreciate it. Thank you also to Louise Speitel for videotaping the event. For anyone who could not make it there will be copies available for a small donation.

Our next big event will take place on Friday, October 14th. Applefest will be held that night from 5:30 to 7:30PM. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. The price includes a hotdog with or without sauerkraut, an apple dessert with ice cream and whipped topping, a beverage, and good music for your listening pleasure. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule to donate baked apple goods, ice cream, or whipped toppings. There is also a sign-up sheet for volunteers; please sign up to help us in any way that you can. And don't forget to join us for great fellowship, food, and fun!

In Christian Love and Fellowship, Dawn Duran, chairperson



Evergreens October 26, 12 Noon

Evergreens will meet at noon on October 26th for their sandwich luncheon. Dessert and coffee will be provided. We will be honored to have Absecon **Mayor John Armstrong** speak to us on the **Future of Absecon**. There will be a time for questions and answers.

Let's have a good attendance!

Lunch Bunch Wednesday, October 12

Lunch bunch will be going to Allan's Clam Bar in New Gretna on October 12th at noon. Van will leave from church at 11:30 for those who need a ride.



Remember, Deadlines are Important!

Sunday bulletin announcements – Noon Wednesday

“The Presby Post” (Friday email) – Noon Thursday

“Good News” (monthly newsletter) – the 20th of the month

All articles are to be **in writing** and submitted to the office (email preferred) by the due date. Please keep in mind it may be necessary to edit articles due to space limitations in our printed publications.



Thank you all for your thoughts for our loss. You were great with our mom.

The Gras Family

I would like to thank you so very much for taking care of the after service for my mom. As always you did a fantastic job. I cannot thank you enough for your services.

Thank you for your kindness. My mom loved the church and the members.

Judy Bond

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Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. I use it all the time and literally feel God's arms around me. It was perfect!

My arm is healing nicely.

Kathy Boyte

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I wish to extend my sincere thanks for the prayer blanket you made for my son, Stan. He is very appreciative of your thoughtfulness and prayers. May this be a constant reminder to him of Jesus's abiding love and comfort.

Fran Weir

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Members and Friends of the Absecon Presbyterian Church,

The members and board members of the Absecon Historical Society would like to thank you for the use of your church during our annual walking tour of Absecon on September 17.

Just want you to know we appreciate your kindness.

The Absecon Historic Society





**Annual Friends of Jean
Webster's Fundraising
Dinner**

October 19, 6:00 PM
Laguna Grill
Brigantine, NJ

*PLEASE JOIN US TO CONTINUE
TO FULFILL SISTER JEAN'S
VISION AND COMMITMENT
IN PROVIDING NURISHING
MEALS TO THOSE IN NEED*

For tickets or information, call 609-266-7942

Friends of Jean Webster, Inc.



Fighting Hunger and Changing Lives
Reverend John R. Scotland, Executive Director

Dear Friend;

We invite you to participate in our Friends of Jean Webster (FOJW) annual fundraising dinner on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the Laguna Grill in Brigantine, New Jersey.

Our fundraising event includes dinner, an auction of gift baskets and various prizes, as well as the distribution of an ad book. We hope you will consider purchasing an ad to support Sister Jean's mission while marketing your business.

ADVERTISING SPECIFICATIONS

<u>Space</u>	<u>Dimensions (w by h)</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Quarter Page	(2.5 by 4")	\$ 75.00
Half Page	(5 by 8")	\$150.00
Full Page	(10 by 8")	\$200.00
Inside Cover(s)		\$250.00
Outside Cover (Back)		\$300.00
Business Card		\$ 25.00

All ads must be camera ready and will be in black and white. Adobe Acrobat file format is preferable. Please contact Joanne at (609) 965-6871 with questions. Graphics, artwork, and fonts must be emailed to jgeisenhoffer@njcodi.org no later than October 12th.

There are many opportunities to help raise funds for Sister Jean's Kitchen. Please consider purchasing a ticket for \$30.00 and joining us on October 19th, donating a gift basket or auction item, and/or purchasing an ad.

To purchase tickets or donate a gift basket or auction item, please contact Rev. John Scotland by email at jrscotland@aol.com or by phone at (609) 404-0290.

Thank you for your continued support,
Friends of Jean Webster
Fundraising Committee

Location: Victory First Presbyterian Deliverance Church - South Pennsylvania and Pacific Avenue - Atlantic City, NJ
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5146 - Atlantic City, NJ 08404
Phone: (609) 266-7942 - (609) 266-0270
www.jeanwebsterkitchen.com

Serving in October

Lay Assistants

02 David Burgess
09 David Burgess
16 Leo Ransone
23 David Burgess
30 Priscilla Schultheis

Head Ushers

02 Vic & Rita Abelson
09 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
16 Kirk & Nancy Conover
23 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
30 Bill & Dorie Keener

Offering

02 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
09 Jack & Dee Heil
16 Roy Birkbeck, Jo-ann Weller
23 Greg Hamaty, Tina Brown
30 Ginny Davenport, Ilsa Smith

Acolyte

02 Franklin Nale
09 Jacob Sabo
16
23
30

Nursery

02 Gloria Achamizo
09 Jennifer Platt
16 Gloria Achamizo
23 Jennifer Platt
30 Gloria Achamizo

Deacon of the Month

Russ Adkisson

Van Drivers

02 John Channell
09 Dirk Williamson
16 Tina Brown
23 Vic Abelson
30 Jose Achamizo

Refreshment Hosts

02 Loretta Metz, Helen & Richard Older
09 Alice Smith, Nancy Sooy
16 Georgina Umoren, Greg Hamaty
23 Kris Jenoriki, Priscilla Schultheis
30 Fellowship Committee

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

02 Set-up –
Cook – Melvin Washington
Clean-up – Ginny Davenport
09 Set-up – Kris Jenoriki
Cook – John Channell
Clean-up – Vic & Rita Abelson
16 Set-up – Donna Hughes
Cook – Bill Hoesten
Clean-up – Dirk Williamson
23 Set-up –
Cook – Leo Ransone
Clean-up – Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
30 Set-up – Lynn Adkisson
Cook – Russ Adkisson
Clean-up – Gayle Ackerman

Counter Schedule

02 Debbie & Don Wong
09 Barb & Dan Hughes
16 Leo Ransone, Nancy Conover
23 Jerry Hoenes, Betsy Torjussen
30 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover

