

January 2017

Good News

Verse of the Month: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” John 1:9*



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January; New Year, new beginnings, new weather patterns and new ideas. We mark the New Year on the calendar with celebrations. We toast the newly minted coin of time. We mark the day with bowl games and parades. Some people eat certain foods that are supposed to bring good luck for the year ahead. My wife, Rebecca, favors black-eyed peas, (blecchhh!). There is an old Scottish tradition called, "the first footer". The idea is that the first person who enters a home on the New Year will indicate what kind of year it will be. In order to ensure good luck, someone is usually designated to be that first entrant. They will carry a tray with a couple of glasses and a bottle of Islay single malt Scotts whiskey, ensuring a joyful year.

Despite all of our traditions involving the start of the year, for Christians, we are about to enter the time after Epiphany or the Sunday of the Three Kings known as "ordinary time". However, this year is not ordinary. During the coming year, you will meet your new pastor and start new ministry with him or her. In addition, you will welcome a new director of music ministries. Music is very important to reformed worship no more so than here at Absecon.

Much will change and, of course, much will continue, that is the nature of our faith. Our Lord is unchanging even if we change the ways we find to worship the Holy Trinity. God's presence is eternal, but we respond in whatever ways we find meaningful.

In the meantime, the New Year will also bring new adult studies. Tuesday afternoons, beginning at 1:30PM, in the lounge, we will study Queen Esther and her Biblical sisters such as Ruth, Tamar and Queen Bathsheba. It will become evident that these were not the shrinking violets that we might have heard about in Sunday School, but women with intentions and plans. Join us if you can.

Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM at the manse, we will begin a study of Job. Along with the book itself, the series will be based on Harold Kushner's book, ***The Book of Job-When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person***. Job is a very human book, which touches on questions real people have in life, such as: Why is there suffering? Why do I suffer? Am I being punished? Job dares to ask the truly existential questions that we may have been afraid to ask. Join us whenever you can. And; I'll see you in church.

Tom Purchase, Interim Pastor





Annual Meeting to Be Held January 29

Our annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will be held Sunday, January 29, following 10:00 worship. Reports will be reviewed and accepted. A Nominating Committee (for new officers) will be elected, and there will be time for old and new business.

A free pizza luncheon will follow in Madden Hall for all those in attendance.

Notice to all Chairmen and Group Leaders: All reports must be submitted to the office by Wednesday, January 04.



Winter Storm Warnings

We do not advertise on radio or TV, but you may get a message advising you of cancellations in the event of bad weather. In any case, call the office if you are uncertain. We will try to keep the church answering machine up to date.

If you feel uncertain about coming in the snow, you have our permission to stay home.

(If you have not yet signed up for auto-notifications and would like to receive messages please call the office!)



Sunday School and Related News for January

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, we are looking forward to a great New Year!! December was very busy for our group, we had the birthday party for Jesus, a great Christmas presentation & went Caroling to bring cheer to the residents of Absecon Manor. Our children make cards and gifts to share with our friends at Absecon Manor but most importantly we shared our love and our gift of giving. Many thanks to all those who lead and participated in our events. King of Kings and our Sunday School together make an amazing group of kids whose enthusiasm and spirit are inspiring.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ **January 20, 2017** we will be having a movie night, our feature will be “Pete’s Dragon”. We will be having dinner, popcorn and a movie from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Details to follow.

- ◆ **February 17, 2017** will be Family game night with a round of Jeopardy and some individual games. This will be a pot luck event, be sure to look for the sign up sheets in the lobby.

If you plan on attending one of our events **please be sure to sign up**, it makes it much easier for planning with a headcount. Just a reminder for parents that there will be **no** Sunday School on Christmas Sunday or New Year's Sunday. The new Rotation will begin on January 8, 2017. The Christian Education Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas. 2017 will be the best yet!!!! God Bless!

In his Service,
Tina

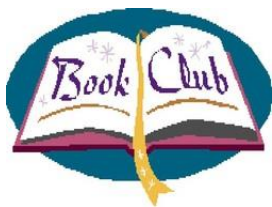
Women's Circles



NO MEETING IN JANUARY. See you in February.

On Tuesday, December 20th, Carol Kleiner and Gerry delivered the following to the Charles L. Spragg School in Egg Harbor City: 42 pairs of socks, 32 hat & glove sets, 12 pairs of gloves, 7 hats, 3 scarves, 3 sets of hat, glove & socks, and 3 sets of hat, gloves & scarves. Thank you to everyone who donated these items.

Christian Readers Book Club



On January 18 we will be gathering in the Cobb lounge to discuss the recently read book *The Mistletoe Promise* by Richard Paul Evans. Come join us and tell us of a book you would recommend us to read this coming year. See you there!



Worship Committee Report



The Music Director Search Committee has completed the interviews of all current candidates. The remaining candidates will each provide the music for a Sunday Service in January 2017. After completing reference and background checks and salary negotiations, a recommendation to the Session on February 7, 2017, for a hire should follow.

Results of the Fall Congregational Survey (presented to the Session on 12/06/16) include:

Participate in breakfast 25% (14/55);
Attend Sunday School 17% (4/23);
Attend Adult Sunday School 33% (17/51);
Does 10 am service work for you: YES, 80 % (39/49);
Prefer one/two Sunday service: ONE, 76% (39/51).

Respectfully submitted,
David Burgess MD, Chair,
Worship Committee.



Bring in the Clowns

Our guest speaker, Francine Watkins, is a former Dept head for a Fortune 500 Company. She supervised the training of a nation-wide sales force and wrote a highly respected book about the industry. She retired to Port Republic and missed her "human Connections". She will share her experiences. She became a Caring Clown for AtlantiCare Regional Hospital. She will tell some touching and humorous antidotes. You will laugh, be moved by the power of kindness to others and leave with a warm glow.

Please join us for our Evergreens sandwich lunch at noon on January 25, 2017 for a lot of laughs. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided.

Lunch Bunch to Olive Garden

Lunch Bunch will go to the Olive Garden on Wednesday, January 11th. Van will leave at 11:30 for those who need a ride.

Shower of Birthday Cards



Seacrest Village
1001 Center Street
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
Attn: Edna Brown, Room 320

Edna will be 100 years old on January 13! Can you help her receive 100 cards to celebrate?



A Very Special Thank You...



...to a very special young man in our church:
Franklin Nale!!

Many do not realize what his part has been in helping the last 2 Congregational Events to succeed as well as the Sunday morning Children's Christmas program.

Franklin spent hours with Greg Buchanan, John Taylor and Joan Hoenes to arrange all of the sound equipment details for the Congregational Events.

In the same way, he worked with the Children's Christmas Program helping Priscilla Schultheis and her team.

Thank you, Franklin, for the many hours in which you volunteered your knowledge and skills to help 100's of people share our Lord's message of love this Christmas Season! TGBTG

A thank you note to the Deacons and everyone.

I want to thank the Deacons for the Christmas gift which was greatly appreciated. I also want to say a special thank you to Loretta Metz for her deliveries of soups and homemade breads. My everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Patti, Jim and Devin Morris

I want to thank all my friends for my Christmas cards.

Jean



Serving in January

Lay Assistants

01 David Burgess
08 Dawn Duran
15 David Burgess
22 David Burgess
29 David Burgess

Head Ushers

01 Vic & Rita Abelson
08 Elaine Risley, Carol Thomas
15 Bob & Barbara Hudak
22 Kirk & Nancy Conover
29 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd

Offering

01 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
08 Jack & Dee Heil
15 Greg Hamaty, Roy Birkbeck
22 Ilsa Smith, Betty Price
29 Tina Brown, Greg Hamaty

Acolyte

01 Franklin Nale
08 Jacob Sabo
15 Jackson Harvey
22 Libby Little
29 Franklin Nale

Nursery

01 Jennifer Platt
08 Gloria Achamizo
15 Jennifer Platt
22 Gloria Achamizo
29 Jennifer Platt

Deacon of the Month

Loretta Metz

Van Drivers

01 John Channell
08 Barbara Hughes
15 Tina Brown
22 Vic Abelson
29 Jose Achamizo

Refreshment Hosts

01
08
15
22
29

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

01 No Breakfast
08 Set-up Kris Jenoriki
Cook John Channell
Clean-up Vic & Rita Abelson
15 Set-up Donna Hughes
Cook Bill Hoesten
Clean-up Dirk Williamson
22 Set-up
Cook Leo Ransone
Clean-up Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
29 Set-up Linda Adkisson
Cook Russ Adkisson
Clean-up Gayle Ackerman

Counter Schedule

01 Barb & Dan Hughes
08 Leo Ransone, Nancy Conover
15 Gerald Hoenes, Betsy Torjussen
22 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover
29 Barbara & Bob Hudak