

March 2017

Good News

Verse of the Month: *“For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us the power, love and self-discipline” 2 Timothy 1:7*



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A Season of Prayer Leading to Gethsemane

Dear Friends,

When you receive this newsletter, it will already be Lent, the penitential season that leads to the glory of Easter Day, the day of the resurrection of our Lord and our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

We often desire to skip over Lent in our hurry to celebrate Easter with egg hunts, celebratory services that often mean shopping for new clothes and hats and, of course, Easter candy. And, of course, we want to be sure that the services are not too long so we can get to the Easter dinner we anticipate.

But, wait; Lent has a rhythm and presence of its own. It is a time of prayer and reflection when we contemplate the past year and look forward to the new life we are promised in Christ. For many people, it is a time of mediation and a time of growth in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I look forward to Lent each year.

My family keeps a modified fast during Lent. No meat is consumed on Wednesdays and Fridays during the season and regular times of prayer are observed throughout the days of Lent. It is also a time of increased Scripture study. There is no obligation to keep a strict Lent. It is our choice, because it is meaningful to us.

Do what is meaningful to you and your family this Lenten season, for it is not ultimately what you “give up” for Lent that is the source of growth, but what you take in that encourages growth. What I mean is this; Lent could be a time of increased participation in a mission of the Church either locally or long-distance. Lent could be a time that you enhance your Biblical knowledge through study. And, we do have two adult studies during the week at 1:30PM on Tuesdays in the lounge at the church and at 7:00PM on Wednesdays at the manse.

The time grows close when we also have the opportunity to join our fellow believers in the ecumenical events connected to Lent. Our unity dinner will be at the United Methodist Church in Absecon at 6:30PM on the evening of the 8th of March. The Lenten lunches preceded by worship will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church at noon on 15 March followed by St. Mark and All Saints Episcopal on 22 March and here at the Presbyterian Church at Absecon on 29 March and finally at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church on the 5th of April. And, don't forget, we shall be joining our Methodist brethren for Maundy Thursday service the evening of 13 April. Good Friday services will be determined.

All in all there will be plenty of opportunities to observe a holy Lent. At the last services of Lent, we will approach Gethsemane and share with Jesus His time of trial and passion. Join me as you and I go on the Lenten journey one more time before your new pastor leads you into the future.

Grace and peace,
Tom Purchase, IP

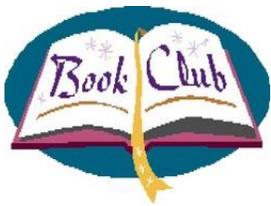


Women's Circles



This month as we continue our Bible study "Who Is Jesus?" we will see how he is portrayed in the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel is the most Jewish of the four Gospels. Matthew begins his Gospel with a genealogy that goes back to David, the great king of the Jews, and even farther back to Abraham, the father of the Jews. Here Jesus is shown to be the Jewish messiah sent from the Jewish God to the Jewish people in fulfillment of the Jewish Law.

The Ruth Circle will meet 1:00 p.m. Friday, March 3rd at the home of Betsy Cunius. The Martha Circle will meet at the home of Carol Thomas at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 9th. 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.



Christian Readers Book Club March 15 at 6:30p

ATTENTION !!!!

As the last meeting of the book club was cancelled, we will be discussing the books *The Mistletoe Promise* by Richard Paul Evans and *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamont at our next meeting. We will also be choosing the books we will read during the coming year. Do you have a book you would like us to read? Come join us and tell us about it.

All are welcome to join us in the lounge Wednesday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m.



Mr. Rick DeKarski has accepted the position of Director Of Music Ministry. He will begin his duties on March 12.

The first meeting of the 2017 Worship Committee will be on March 5. Names of the Committee members are available on request.

Respectfully submitted,
David Burgess MD

Lenten Service Schedule

The Absecon/Galloway Clergy have finalized the schedule for this year's Lenten services. Lent is a season of spiritual reflection and journeying, and we encourage everyone to attend as many services as possible:

March 08, 6:30pm Unity Dinner, Absecon Methodist Church

March 15, Noon - Reformation

March 22, Noon - St Mark and All Saints

March 29, Noon - Absecon Presbyterian

April 05, Noon - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

April 13, 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Absecon Methodist Church

April 14, Noon - Good Friday service TBA



The Mission/Evangelism Committee met for the first time in 2017 on Saturday, February 18th. Our meeting, as well as our year, started with a stimulating and productive review of our past initiatives, practices, and mission/evangelism philosophy. What we continue to value from the past will be carried forward, but we're beginning to reevaluate some areas of thought and practice as well. It is a pretty exciting start for us.

Off the bat, there are a few action items we want to bring to your attention. In chronological order, they are: Family Promise fund raiser at Galloway Diner, Pennies for Pins fund raiser to support the making of health kits to be distributed where needed, One Great Hour of Sharing to kick off mid-March, a Saint Patrick's Day dinner, open to the community, to benefit our church as well as Family Promise, and a coin drop collection on April 8th to further benefit Family Promise.

As announced in church Sunday, take the flier that was inserted in your bulletin to Galloway Diner Wednesday, February 22nd to enjoy a meal while helping Family Promise. A portion of your check total will be donated by the diner.

Participate in the Pennies for Pins effort as this year's way of making money to create hygiene kits like we have done in the past. These will be distributed to communities in crisis worldwide. This effort is currently being driven by JoAnn Sabo and Priscilla Schultheis, also as announced on Sunday.

One Great Hour of Sharing will kick off mid-March, and, as you probably know, it's a great way to help families and communities everywhere sustain themselves.

Returning to local ministry, planning for a Saint Patrick's Day dinner to benefit APC and also FPAC has begun (more on that to follow), and we still need a few more people with a little time to donate on Saturday, April 8th to join us in the coin drop effort to raise money for FPAC (Family Promise of Atlantic County).

In His Name, please keep these efforts in your thoughts and prayers.

Leo Ransone
Mission/Evangelism Chair



Deacons had their first meeting of 2017 Saturday, February 4. We welcomed our new officers Karen Muldoon and Alice Smith, and wish to thank our retiring officers Anita Brown, Kris Jenoriki, and Mae Sterling.

Deacons are looking forward to continuing our work with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Thank you for your donations and keep up the good work. So far we have donated 105 pounds of food and are hoping to donate 2000 pounds by the end of this year! (Please remember no glass jars of food).

Deacons, together with Mission/Evangelism, are pleased that our Christian Mission work in Pakistan is continuing to grow. We would like to send monetary donations every month to provide food, water and basic supplies for needy Christian Families. Please visit the website: godcarepm.com and see what is going on in Pakistan. Starting this March we (Deacons and Mission/Evangelism) will have a collection basket (and envelopes marked for Pakistan) in the vestibule for your donations. Any amount will be welcome and truly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be April 8, 9am in Madden Hall where we will assemble our Easter bags.

We wish to thank the congregation for your continued support and donations and for making our church a welcome place for all.

In Christian service and love,
Naida Burgess, Moderator
Loretta Metz, Vice Moderator





Thank you and Farewell

For the past six years Dawn Duran did a magnificent job as Fellowship chair, wearing many hats along the way. As she steps away from that role, she prepares for a new chapter in her life. Bill Hoesten, who served as our Breakfast Coordinator, also prepares for a new adventure. Together, Dawn and Bill are preparing to move Delaware. We will miss you both! Thanks for all your hard work, and may God bless you both in your new adventure.

Soup Sales

Both soup sales were a success! Many hands made delicious soup! They tasted especially good on these chilly Sunday afternoons. Here is the income from the sales: Jan- \$356 Feb- \$367. Altogether we raised \$723. Way to go! A special thanks to the soup makers!

Breakfast

The most immediate concern was who will take over breakfast? Well, Melvin Washington and John Channell stepped forward to be co-coordinators of the program. We will keep the cost at \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. If there is a surplus of any kind at the end of 6 months, that money will go into the general fund. The five week rotation of cooks, set up, and clean up folks remains largely the same. A few openings will need to be filled and those will likely be filled soon. So breakfast will go on! It can be a wonderful start to your Sunday morning. From breakfast you could participate in a Bible study of your own or help with the Sunday school. Then move into the worship service. Now that's what I call a fulfilling morning!

Refreshments

Another team of 5 volunteers keep this enjoyable activity going by setting out the refreshments and cleaning up afterwards every week. Each person works one Sunday a month. Then, you come in with goodies to share. Kris Jenoriki will be calling people to bring in refreshments. I hope you'll say "yes" and keep this fine tradition going.

Lenten Lunches

The Lenten lunches begin the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. Each service begins at 12:00 noon with the luncheon to follow. Here is the schedule:

- March 15 – Reformation Lutheran
- March 22 – St Mark and All Saints
- March 29 – Absecon Presbyterian Church
- April 5 – St Elizabeth Ann Seton

We'll be preparing soup and sandwiches for 90 people. What a wonderful way to share the Lenten journey together!

Unity Dinner

This year the Unity Dinner will take place at the Methodist Church. We will be providing the desserts and paper products! Tickets cost \$8.00. See Tina Brown or Joan Nale to sign up. This is always a highlight of the season!

Welcome Reception

We will welcome our new organist and choir director, Rick DeKarski, on March 12th with a cake in Madden Hall following the service. This will be Rick's official first Sunday with us! Welcome Rick! We look forward to the music!

Fund Raising

Our fundraising committee will meet soon to discuss old ways and new ways to supplement funds where needed! If you have any neat ideas or would like to be part of this group please let me know. All volunteers are readily accepted.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your new Fellowship Chairperson. Our next meeting will take place in Cobb Lounge on March 11th at 11:00 am.

In His service,
Priscilla Schultheis



No Evergreens or Lunch Bunch in March

March.)

Lunch Bunch and Evergreens **Will NOT** be meeting this month as our Lenten Lunches are scheduled. Check the schedule elsewhere in this publication for the locations of these service/luncheons. (Our church is the sponsor for 4th Wednesday of

“ADVANCE - - - NOTICE” - - - -



The actual Tickets for the Fellowship Committee's next concert coming Saturday – May 6th (by Atlantic City's Second Baptist Church) will be available starting PALM SUNDAY – April 9.

B – U – T Everyone is welcome and encouraged to request a specific seat location for a Favorite Spot NOW! This makes the ticketing much easier – (Cost will be \$10 for concert and lovely dessert reception following) As always, see or call Joanie (641-1839)

(Planned by your Fellowship Com – Priscilla Schultheis, Chair)



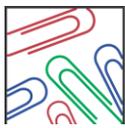


I want to thank everyone for their Get Well cards and all the phone calls while I was laid up. Christmas morning I fell on my back steps and really did a job on my back. I just started to drive a little 2 weeks ago. It was so comforting to know all of you were praying for me. I also want to thank the Deacons for the beautiful fruit basket that they sent me. Thanks to Ann Wallace for doing my paperwork in the office and Dottie McCaffrey for handling folding the bulletins each week for me. What great friends I have. I will be happy to be back to do my work. THANK YOU!

from Carol Thomas

Kathy Boyte and Stanley Weir wish to thank everyone for their prayers regarding their recent procedures and continued recovery.

Happy to report they are doing well.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE 2017 Newsletter Postage Fees Due

Postal fees for the 2017 Good News home delivery are now due. Payment of \$10.00 must be submitted to the church office by March 20.

This service is provided for those who do not have internet service or cannot pick up a copy in person.



Serving in March

Lay Assistants

05 David Burgess
12 Linda Gillis
19 David Burgess
26 Priscilla Schultheis

Head Ushers

05 Vic & Rita Abelson
12 Elaine Risley, Naida Burgess
19 Alice Smith, Jan Jorgensen
26 Betty Lloyd, Mary Bew

Offering

05 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
12 Jack & Dee Heil
19 Tina Brown, Betty Price
26 Roy Birkbeck, Greg Hamaty

Acolyte

05 Franklin Nale
12 Jacob Sabo
19 Jackson Harvey
26 Jack Little

Nursery

05 Gloria Achamizo
12 Jennifer Platt
19 Gloria Achamizo
26 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

05 John Channell
12 Barbara Hughes
19 Tina Brown
26 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

05 Rita & Vic Abelson, Richard & Helen
Older
12 Barb & Dan Hughes, Alice Smith
19 Donna Hughes, Elaine Risley
26 Jayne & Rob Perry, Loretta Metz

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

05 Set-up: Priscilla Schultheis
Cook: Melvin Washington
Clean-up: Debbie Wong, Betsy Eberhard
12 Set-up: Kris Jenoriki
Cook: John Channell
Clean-up: Vic & Rita Abelson
19 Set-up: Donna Hughes
Cook: Ed Little
Clean-up: Wayne Newell, Jim McManus
26 Set-up: Edith Budd
Cook: Leo Ransone
Clean-up: Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

Counter Schedule

05 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover
12 Barbara & Bob Hudak
19 Debbie & Don Wong
26 Barb & Dan Hughes

