

October 2017

Good News

Verse of the Month: *“I am the way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6*



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Sunday School and Related News for October 2017

Thank you to all who helped with our Rally day celebration and the opening of our new program BRIDGES! Special thanks as always to JoAnn Sabo for all her amazing talents that she shares with us without fail. We were very pleased to Honor Rachael Platt and Matthew Rodriguez with their first Bibles. Our group also had a great outing at the Cape May Zoo, we had beautiful weather, good food and great fellowship! The animals weren't bad either.

Please come out at 9 am on Sunday Mornings for our new Bridges program. We could use some friendly and new faces in our group. All ages welcome, please come and support the future of our church!!

Don't forget **Outdoor Movie Night is Friday September 22, 2017**. Our feature presentation is "Sing". There will be popcorn, drinks a campfire and more.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

- ◆ **October 29, 2017 – Trunk or Treat**
- ◆ **November 4, 2017 – Freedom USA**
- ◆ **December 10, 2017 – Birthday Party for Jesus/Play**

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. Our Youth Ministry needs kids, if you know a child that is not currently receiving the word, please encourage them to check out our program. Our Youth are the future of our church; please help us grow!

In his Service,
Tina

Women's Circles



The four canonical Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are not the only Gospels written by early Christians. Other stories about Jesus circulated in the early centuries of Christianity, offering us stories of the missing years of Jesus. Discoveries in the 19th and 20th centuries have opened up to us information about the great diversity of early Christianity. This month as we continue our study of

Who Is Jesus, we will look at some of these writings, especially the Infancy Gospel of Thomas which offers stories of the boy Jesus.

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 6th at the home of Betsy Cunius. The Martha Circle will meet Thursday, October 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Ilsa Smith, 103 Southampton Drive, Smithville. All women of the church are encouraged to join us for Bible study and fellowship at the Circle that best meets your schedule. We will be happy to see you and you will be warmly welcomed.



Christian Readers Book Club

Our next book will be “Shaken” by Tim Tebow - discovering your true identity in the midst of life’s storms. We will be reviewing it on November 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Won’t you join us for a lively discussion?

Carol Kleiner



Worship Committee Report: Rev. Collins will again provide worship leadership on September 24; Rev. Meilands will begin his temporary pastoral leadership on Oct. 1 with Communion; and the Choir will again provide music on Sunday starting Sept 24.

Respectfully submitted,
David Burgess MD, Chair, Worship.

To the Session of The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am a graduate of Montclair State College (now Montclair State University), Montclair, NJ, with a B. A. in Speech and Theater and a minor in English. I was also certified to teach these subjects in New Jersey.

I am a 1997 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in June of 1998.

Between seminary graduation and ordination, I was the summer supply pastor at a small Presbyterian church in Elizabeth, NJ. Then I was the temporary supply pastor of the German Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Newark NJ. I also did hospital chaplaincy at the Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, NJ while the Protestant chaplain was on leave.

After ordination, I served the Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton, Florence, NJ as the solo pastor for the last 19 years. In addition to Sunday worship (2 services), I taught Adult Sunday School, led several weekly Bible studies (one of which is still going strong), served as an on call chaplain at Virtua Memorial Hospital, Mt. Holly, NJ. I served as President of the Florence Township Ministerium for many years. I led worship twice a month at the Brookdale Senior Living facility in Florence, NJ. I also led worship at the Masonic Home, Burlington, NJ and Medford Leas Senior Living, Assisted Living and Nursing Care facility, Medford, NJ whenever I was called. I was often called upon to lead the World Day of Prayer service at the Florence

Township Municipal Building.

Most recently, I have filled the pulpits at the Presbyterian churches of Janvier, Beverly, Willingboro, Bridgeton, Vineland and Medford.

My wife Pat and I reside in Southampton, NJ with our 14-year-old dog, Maggie. We have two daughters whom we plan to visit more often now that I am retired. Pam is the Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, Michigan. Karen is an art director with a large advertising firm in Chicago, Illinois.

I am honored to be asked to lead worship at Absecon and am excited to share God's Word with you and to serve your church family in any way I can.

In Christ's amazing love,
Reverend, Ivo Meilands



Mission
Committee

Mission/Evangelism Committee Updates

The Mission/Evangelism Committee met on September 16th and the results were as follows:

Spending Our Money

“Stuff happens.” Sometimes emergencies call for immediate missionary action, because by their nature they don't wait for a full committee deliberation to decide how to help. Our committee decided on a procedure which frees individual members to use up to \$500 in Mission/Evangelism funds in such situations, coordinated as best as possible through the committee chairperson.

Family Promise

The Merendinos will once again be our guests beginning October 1st. Another family of three will be with us too, and a third family is also a possibility. Hosting volunteers will be needed, and I will be reaching out to you over the next couple of weeks.

Harvey and Irma

Those two interlopers require no further introduction at this point. Existing Mission/Evangelism funds (\$1000) were sent to West Jersey Presbytery to be forwarded to Texas presbyteries to be used through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help with recovery there. The money presently being collected in the weekly envelopes will be handled in like fashion to help with recovery in Florida.

Bakely House

Our mission house is currently being cleaned and refreshed for use by our next family in need. Target date for completion of that work is October first. We made a list of “volunteers” to help.

They will soon be informed.

In His Name, please keep our missions in your thoughts and prayers.

Leo Ransone
Mission/Evangelism Chair

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin meeting again on Saturday October 7th at 9:30 am in the Chapel to continue our work to provide blankets and shawls made by the ladies of our church to all who may need comfort for various reasons in their lives.

All are welcome to join us for Christian fellowship, you do not have to be an expert at knitting or crocheting, there are many who can help if needed.

Hope to see you there.

In Christian Love,
Loretta Metz



News from the Deacons

October 2017

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

Communion will be celebrated October 1, and is World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. World Communion celebrates everyone and in keeping with this idea, Deacons are inviting you to wear traditional dress of your country or nation on this Sunday. We wish to thank Alice Smith, Russ Adkisson and Naida Burgess for setting the communion table this month.

We also wish to thank Kris Jenoriki for taking our used greeting cards and donating them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. This program is no longer accepting cards due to a sharp decline in card sales, limited volunteers to run the program, and a shift in the teen work-skills program. St. Jude's Ranch for Children wishes to thank all and will be concluding its Recycled Card Program.

Your donations of nonperishable, non-expired food items (**no glass** jars please) for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey are still needed and greatly appreciated at all times. So far we have collected a little over 500 pounds. We hope to collect another 500 pounds before the end of

the year, can you help us out? The Food bank takes laundry detergent and disposable baby diapers too.

Deacon for the month of October will be Naida Burgess.

Our next meeting will be Saturday November 4 at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Again, thank you for your continued support especially during this time as our church seeks a new called pastor. Through Jesus all things are possible. Amen

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

Let the Nations Rejoice . . . On Earth as it is in Heaven !

Last month I had the privilege of joining with a core team that facilitated one of our Global Gatherings for Youth With A Mission. It was held in Costa Rica. We had 57 nations represented and the conference was translated into 5 languages - English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean and American Sign Language.

The workshop theme was “on Earth as it is in Heaven” and was organized in such a way that we sat at round tables in order to discuss what was being presented and the implications for our various ministries. I was honored to sit at the American Sign Language table. As they all spoke with one another using their hands, I listened as someone translated what was being signed. It is always a learning curve to be the one person who is totally reliant on translation. Often I am in a situation where English is being spoken, there are a few from another language and we must make sure they are being included in the conversation. This time I was the one, waiting to hear what was being said and a little late in laughing at the jokes.

It was beautiful to watch as these friends prayed, worshipped and conversed with their hands. They shared how they were challenged with the messages and they were eager to share some of their ideas for new initiatives in reaching the deaf communities around the world with the Gospel.

In a very timely manner, one of our Master’s students I have been working with in Switzerland, Marion, is interested in working with the deaf community in Jamaica. I was able to connect Marion with this group in hopes that they can share resources, ideas and join together in the future. I am always amazed and love to watch how God connects His children around the world.

I will head off to Switzerland for 3 weeks in October. I will be teaching in a Discipleship Training School and then continuing my staff responsibilities within the Master’s program.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support . . . it truly will be amazing when we can all join

in one voice of worship with every tongue, tribe and nation. These little glimpses here on earth truly do reflect Jesus' prayer - "may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

With much gratitude and love,
Lisa



Our Fall Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th from 9 am to 12 noon. Many hands are needed to do inside and outside jobs!! A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the foyer, so please sign up for a chore that you may want to do. Refreshments will be provided!! Hope to see many smiling faces there!!

Thanks for your help in advance!

Kris Jenoriki

Attention all Senior Members of Our Church

I am handling the notices on the sign in front of the Church. I would like to acknowledge our members when they reach 90, 95 and 100 years of age. We have a lot to honor this way. We know when you have a birthday and in some but not all cases when you were born. The only way we really know when you reach one of these milestones is if you tell Gay in the office. So, please tell her when this is about to happen so we can wish you Happy Birthday on the Church sign.

Jerry Hoenes



October Fellowship News

Breakfast is now underway. Our rotating kitchen crews include many volunteers who set-up, cook, and clean-up the breakfast which is served between 8:30 and 9:00 am. Breakfast still costs \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 years old. We can enjoy scrambled eggs, French toast, and pancakes with bacon, sausage, juice, coffee, and tea throughout the year until we break for summer.

Just a heads up here...Sunday school, now called **Bridges, begins in Madden Hall at 9:00** so we'll probably want to be finished with breakfast by then and hopefully join in the fun. We will need to be quiet when the scripture readings and directions are being presented. After that, everyone is free to choose activities of interest, some of which will take place in Madden Hall while others may take place in other areas.

Coffee Hour will take place each week at approximately 11:00 am when the worship service is over. Again, we have a great crew of rotating hosts who will take the supplied refreshments and put them out in time for the multitudes who will enjoy them. Kris Jenoriki is in charge of signing two people each week to supply one gallon of juice and refreshments enough for 40 people. Cookies, brownies, cupcakes, pastries, donuts, fresh fruit are all good choices for Coffee Hour.

Our upcoming **Congregational Event with Chiz Rider** is fast approaching. Joan Hoenes does a phenomenal job finding the very best Christian musicians and talent around. Chiz Rider, a famous Christian trumpet player, will be performing a concert for us on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Nancy Sooy is preparing a delicious dinner for seatings at 5 pm and 6 pm. Many volunteers have signed on to help prepare and serve the dinner. Many teens have volunteered to help as well. The concert will begin at 7 pm. Tickets cost \$15 and sales have been vigorous. See Joanie Hoenes to purchase your tickets as soon as possible. We are certain to enjoy an amazing evening and performance! Thank you, Joanie, for setting this all up!

Our attention will then turn to the needs of a family in our church. We will hold a **benefit dinner for Bob Gillis** who has undergone and will undergo numerous surgeries on his road to recovery. The **Benefit Dinner** will take place on Saturday, November 11 from 5:00-7:00 pm. We are asking people to donate baskets or items that could go into our Chinese auction or that could be combined with other items to make a great basket. These items should be delivered to the church by October 29th. There will also be some vendors who will donate a percentage of their sales to our cause. If you know any interested vendors, or if you would like to set up a booth, please let me or Linda Gillis know (609-418-9514). Vendors will set up in the vestibule. Our whole event will have an Autumn Harvest feel to it, and it will feel good to help a family that has been actively involved in our church for many years, especially in the areas of Christian Education and Fundraising. Linda Gillis is currently our Clerk of Session.

Our **next meeting will take place on October 21 at 11:00 am** in the Cobb Lounge.

To God Be the Glory,
Priscilla Schultheis

A Long-Over-Due THANK-YOU...

...to Nancy Sooy and her devoted team of workers - who once again provided a delicious “Down-Home-Dinner” preceding CHIZ RIDER’s inspiring concert on Sat. - Sept. 30th!

For many years Nancy has worked countless hours to provide the dinners that have made many of our major CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS possible.

An equally heartfelt thank-you goes to the very hard-working volunteers who “set-up”, “serve” and “clean-up” for the 2 seatings we’ve always needed.

Our Sat. Dec. 9th Christmas Event will be followed by a bountiful DESSERT-RECEPTION - - So “NANCY AND FRIENDS” can relax a “little” though we all know many of the same folks are always there to offer their helping hands - and DESSERT-MAKING-TALENTS!!

Evergreens October 25th

Our sandwich luncheon will be at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 25th. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Watch for further details.

Lunch Bunch to Joe & John’s

Lunch Bunch will meet at 12:00 PM on October 11, 2017 at Joe and John's Restaurant/Pizzeria, 136 New Jersey Ave, Absecon.

Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend. They will be glad you did. We have a great time of Christian fellowship.



Serving in October

Lay Assistants

01 David Burgess
08 Anna Mae Werner
15 David Burgess
22 Kirk Conover
29 David Burgess

Head Ushers

01 Vic & Rita Abelson
08 Elaine Risley, Ginny Davenport
15 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd
22 Bob & Barbara Hudak
29 Betty Price, Ann Wallace

Offering

01 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale
08 Jack & Dee Heil
15 Ann Wallace, Edith Budd
22 Ilsa Smith, Roy Birkbeck
29 Tina Brown, Greg Hamaty

Acolyte

01 Franklin Nale
08 Laly Rodreguez
15 Jackson Harvey
22 Jack Little
29 Jacob Sabo

Deacon of the Month

Naida Burgess

Nursery

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

Van Drivers

01 John Channell
08 Vic Abelson
15 Tina Brown
22 Vic Abelson
29 Dirk Williamson

Refreshment Hosts

01 Elaine Risley
08 Kris Jenoriki
15 Darla Hand
22 Priscilla Schultheis
29 Loretta Metz

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

01 Set-up: Priscilla Schultheis
Cook: Melvin Washington
Clean-up: Deb Wong, Betsy Eberhard
08 Set-up: Kris Jenoriki
Cook: John Channell
Clean-up: Vic & Rita Abelson
15 Set-up: Donna Hughes
Cook: Dirk Williamson
Clean-up: Jim McManus, Rob Perry
22 Set-up: Edith Budd
Cook: Leo Ransone
Clean-up: Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro
29 Set-up: Lynn Adkisson
Cook: Russ Adkisson
Clean-up: Gayle Ackerman

