

*February 2018*

# GOOD NEWS

**Verse of the Month: “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” ~ 1 Corinthians 13:7-8**



*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](mailto:absecon_presby@msn.com) - Website: [abseconpresby.org](http://abseconpresby.org)*

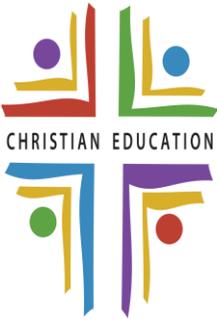


## Winter Storm Warnings

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!)*



## News from Christian Education

By Priscilla Schultheis

I will soon be donning a new hat as chair of the Christian Ed Committee. Pending Session approval, the members of the committee for 2018 will be: Tina Harvey, Bill Keener, Jackie Bhatti, Bob Gillis, Linda Gillis, Scott Sabo, JoAnn Sabo, Laura Puglise, Gloria Achamizo, Bob Hudak III, and Jennifer Platt. I look forward to working with everyone as we look ahead to Christian education opportunities for youth and adults. Perhaps we can find new ways to reach out to the community and establish greater connections and ties in our faith journeys.

**Rock Solid** still goes well. Many adults contribute to the success of the program and 16-18 tweens continue to meet regularly on Monday nights. In December, the group, dressed as elves, served at the Pancake Breakfast with Santa, performed in the Christmas Pageant as narrators, served at Sister Jean's Kitchen, and went roller skating at Young's Skating Rink. This group will go ice skating at the Flyers' Skate Zone on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will also spend an afternoon with residents at the Health Center at Galloway on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**King of Kings** fluctuates in attendance from 24-36 kids weekly. We restructured the program recently to allow for smaller group activities so now we have four groups that rotate between activities. They are the Chickadees, Robins, Cardinals, and Blue Jays (Four Calling Birds). The groups rotate between floor games, crafts, metal work, and game room. Attendance in each group ranges between 6-9. The groups are calmer and seem to get more out of the devotional activities. Dinner shared around the round tables is calmer and more social too.

**Sunday School** is an area of great concern. As of now, we have between 2-6 kids attending a program that meets from 9:00-9:45 am. Tina Harvey does an excellent job teaching a Bible lesson which is followed by a mission project or craft. Currently, Loretta Metz and Alice Smith are

prepared to teach us how to make a prayer blanket. Those who attend seem to enjoy the program. This is an area to focus on in 2018.

**Special Events** are well organized by Tina Harvey. Our special event this past January, “Camp Night” held on January 26, was attended by about 60 people. This event brought many kids, teens, and parents together. This collection included youth from King of Kings, Rock Solid, and Summer Camp. Everyone enjoyed a potluck dinner followed by plenty of activities to choose from including: scooter hockey, board games, crafts, cookie making, air hockey, nok hockey, mini golf, wooden peg bowling, Twister, and bead melting magnets.

**Adult Bible Study** opportunities take place weekly and monthly. Anna Mae and Vic Werner hold an awesome Bible Study in Cobb Lounge from 8:50-9:30 am every Sunday morning. Many people indicated a desire for Bible study in our most recent mission study, and this class is the perfect opportunity to become better acquainted with God’s word. Those who attend this Bible Study are learning a lot at a very comfortable pace.

Word has it that a **new Bible study** for adults is forming and will meet on Weds evenings. I’m sure you’ll hear about this in the very near future.

**The Women’s Circles** are still going strong thanks to the leadership of Gerry Reedell. I will need to find out more about which circle meets when and where. Maybe you would like to join one. See Gerry for more information.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as chair of the Christian Education Committee. I am always looking for new ideas and hope you will share them with me and the committee. Let’s see what God has planned for us in the new year and how our faith will grow.

In His Service,  
Priscilla Schultheis

### **Sunday School and Related News for February 2018**

December was a very busy month for our group. We made ornaments for the residents of the Absecon Manor nursing home to give as gifts during our caroling. December 17<sup>th</sup> was a big day for us, the Christmas story was narrated and acted out by our youth groups. The birthday party for Jesus was a blast, with fun, games and a good time for all who participated. We also acknowledged the reason for the season by bringing gifts of warm hats and gloves for the homeless. Thanks to all who helped in all the events! We are truly blessed.

### **Highlights and Up Coming Events**

- ◆ **January 26, 2018 – Camp night/Pot luck**
- ◆ **February 25, 2018 – Pennies for Pins**

Please sure to check the Sunday bulletin and Presby Post for details.

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 is the future of our church; please help us grow!

In His Service,  
Tina



### Women's Circles

This month we will begin a new year-long Bible study of the Letter to the Hebrews. The author of Hebrews addresses a community of Christians, probably living in Rome, who are very familiar with Jewish theology. These Christians seem to be struggling with their faith in Jesus, so the author of Hebrews reminds them clearly that Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God.

The Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Betsy Cunius. The Martha Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Gerry Reedell. (Note change of location) All women of the church are encouraged to attend the circle of your choice. If you have never been to one of our circles before, this will be a good time to start, as we begin a new study for the year. We will be happy to see you and you will be warmly welcomed.



### News from the Deacons

February 2018

We pray that now and into the future you have health and peace and find solace in knowing how much the Lord loves you. Deacons wish to thank you from our hearts for your monetary donations as we are solely funded by you. So, THANK YOU!!

Our Board for 2018 is made up of nine members that included Russ Adkisson, Jacqueline Bhatti, Naida Burgess, Betsy Eberhard, Laurie McManus, Loretta Metz, Karen Muldoon, Alice Smith, and our newest officer Debora Wong. We will miss Bob Hudak as treasurer and wish him well as he transitions to office of Trustee.

Deacon for the month of February will be Russ Adkisson.

Communion may be received by anyone who has been baptized and believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This month we invite you to share the feast of Communion on February 4. We celebrate the body of Christ with bread wafers and the blood of Christ with grape juice. We wish to thank Laurie McManus and Karen Muldoon for setting the communion table this month. If you are an ordained Deacon or Elder (past or present) and wish to help serve Communion please let Naida Burgess know as she is looking for servers. Some Deacons are now taking Communion to homebound members.

Deacons wish to thank Kris Jenoriki for making homemade soups, breads and cookies and keeping the freezer stocked! Last year we gave out over 100 soups and almost 100 breads and cookies! WOW! If you received soup, bread, or cookies from one of the Deacons you can thank Kris. We are so grateful to you, Kris, for continuing this wonderful service for our congregants.

Thank you for your continued donations to the Food Bank! We are off to a good start and have donated over 60 pounds of nonperishable food items. Please remember **no glass jars or expired items** (the Food Bank also takes laundry detergent and disposable baby diapers).

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 24 at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your continued support during this time as our church seeks a new called Pastor. We continue our prayers for the Pastoral Nominating Committee and are **all called to Pastor and pray for each other** not only during this time but always. Through Jesus all things are possible. Amen

In Christian service and love,  
Naida Burgess, Moderator  
Karen Muldoon, Vice Moderator



### Off and Running into 2018

It is shaping up to be an exciting and full year ahead for me as I head out this month to South Africa. February begins with a gathering of those with whom I have served alongside of for many years. We gather to pray and seek God concerning the Discipleship Training Schools we oversee internationally. It is always a rich time, full of vision, excitement and of course the usual curriculum-writing, problem-solving, put-out-various-fires-around-the-world decisions that come with any large organization!

I am looking forward to teaching in several Discipleship Training Schools this spring. The topics I get to teach are Biblical Worldview and the Life of Jesus. I would appreciate your prayers as I come and go in the next few months. Please pray for Mom as she “holds down the fort” at home here. She would love visitors and/or phone calls. I always count on my friends at home here to keep this spirited 90 year old in line while I am away !

Below is my schedule into May. Thank you again for your on-going prayers and support. It means the world to me and to those with whom I get to serve and share God's amazing story of hope!

2018

Jan. 19-21 - UMC Absecon Women's Retreat- Lancaster, Pa

Jan. 26 - Feb.19 - A variety of ministry, meetings and teaching in Cape Town, South Africa

March 10-17- Teaching in Discipleship Training School - Salem, OR.

March 24-31 - Teaching in Discipleship Training School - Madison, WI.

April 2 - 7 - European Leader's Meeting - Malaga, Spain

April 25 - May 5 - Coordinating European Staff Meetings - Estonia/Finland

May 6 - 12 - Teaching in Discipleship Training School - Vladivostok, Russia

Much Love and Peace (my word for this year),  
Lisa



**Evergreens**

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 28, at noon. Pastor Ivo has agreed to join us for lunch and speak a little bit on this or that after.



So bring your sandwich and a friend, beverage & dessert will be provided. Come for an enjoyable time of fellowship!



**Lunch Bunch February 14**

Lunch Bunch will meet at The Windjammer Diner in Somers Point at noon on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The van will leave from the church for whoever needs a ride.



I would like to thank the Deacons for their Christmas gift. I would also like to thank Loretta Metz for delivering the homemade soups, breads, and cookies. We very much appreciate them.

Patti, Jim and Devin Morris

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I'd like to thank the church for my Christmas gift and Russ and I would like to thank the Cemetery Committee for the gift cards.

God bless.  
Russ & Lynn

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To our wonderful friends and church family,

We wish you all a joyful and healthy 2018. Thank you for your holiday greetings, phone calls and visits and to the Deacons who have brought us communion. And it is so good to know that you all are doing so much to keep the very special Absecon Presbyterian Church running until a new pastor is found. Thank you and God bless.

Marjorie and Paul Hamer

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Serving in February

Lay Assistants

04 Priscilla Schultheis  
11 David Burgess  
18 David Burgess  
25 David Burgess

Head Ushers

04 Vic & Rita Abelson  
11 Elaine Risley, Ginny Davenport  
18 Mary Bew, Betty Lloyd  
25 Bob & Barbara Hudak

Offering

04 Joan Nale, Franklin Nale  
11 Jack & Dee Heil  
18 Ann Wallace, Roy Birkbeck  
25 Tina Brown, Greg Hamaty

Acolyte

04 Franklin Nale  
11 Laly Ramirez  
18 Jack Little  
25 Jacob Sabo

Deacon of the Month

Russ Adkisson

Nursery

04 Gloria Achamizo  
11 Jennifer Platt  
18 Gloria Achamizo  
25 Jennifer Platt

Van Drivers

04 John Channell  
11 Vic Abelson  
18 Tina Brown  
25 Vic Abelson

Refreshment Hosts

04 Alice Smith  
11 Elaine Risley  
18 Betty Price  
25 Kris Jenoriki

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

04 Set-up: Priscilla Schultheis  
Cook: Melvin Washington  
Clean-up: Deb Wong, Betsy Eberhard  
11 Set-up: Kris Jenoriki  
Cook: John Channell  
Clean-up: Vic & Rita Abelson  
18 Set-up: Donna Hughes  
Cook: Dirk Williamson  
Clean-up: Jim McManus, Rob Perry  
25 Set-up: Edith Budd  
Cook: Leo Ransone  
Clean-up: Olga Davies, Jean Delesantro

