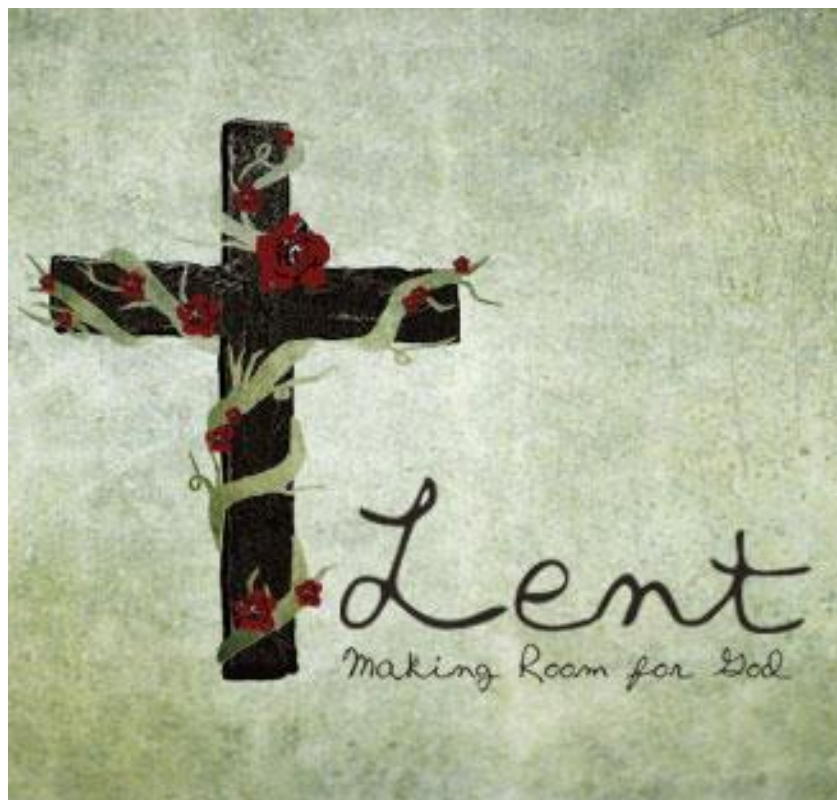


March 2018

GOOD NEWS

Verse of the Month: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’” ~ John 11:25



The Presbyterian Church at Absecon

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2018 Newsletter Postage Fees Due

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Postal fees for the 2018 Good News home delivery are now due. Payment of \$10.00 must be submitted to the church office as soon as possible.

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



Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 11

Be sure to turn your clocks one hour ahead before you go to sleep on Saturday, March 10!



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

Upcoming Events

- February 25- Our Pennies 4 Pins Bowling Fundraiser will take place on Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 12:30-2:30 pm. The cost is \$10 per person and creates funds needed to make disaster relief hygiene kits. This activity welcomes participants from King of Kings, Rock Solid, Sunday School, and the congregation at large. Our coordinator, JoAnn Sabo will purchase all the supplies needed. Then we will have fun assembling more that 150 hygiene kits. Thank you for supporting this combined mission project with your water bottle coin banks, other financial support, and by your participation.
- March 4 – Sunday School “Bridges” kids will distribute fish banks for One Great Hour of Sharing and perform a short skit

- March 4- The Christian Ed Committee will hold a committee meeting in the Cobb Lounge at 11:30 am. Meetings are 30 to 45 minutes in length.
- March 7- A new Bible Study for adults will meet in Cobb Lounge at 7pm. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth and deeper faith.
- March 11- Sunday School Kids will perform a skit to promote One Great Hour of Sharing. This skit will involve a live chicken, sweet potatoes, cell phone, water bottle, canned goods, and large green leaves. Curious!
- March 18- Easter Drama “The Stones of Passion” will be performed by members of the congregation, Rock Solid, and King of Kings. It will later be followed by a pot luck luncheon and an Easter Egg Hunt. Sign up to donate candy, eggs, and food for the luncheon. Let Tina Harvey know if you would like to hide the eggs.
- Family Feud has been postponed until April 14th. That gives everyone more time to figure out what answers the Survey Says!

Rock Solid is currently studying the book of Matthew with Anna Mae Werner. We spent an afternoon at the Health Center at Galloway on February 17th. 12 teens and 3 adults enjoyed 2 hours together. We paired up with nearly 30 residents to have some fun. We introduced ourselves, interviewed our new friends, gave valentine’s that the Sunday School and King of Kings kids had created, made a Valentine’s Day craft together, played Valentine’s Day Bingo with sparkly red hats and soft brown teddy bears for prizes. Mousa Bhatti turned out to be an awesome Bingo caller. Jackie Bhatti joined the fun as she arrived at the Health Center for work. We finished the day with cupcakes (Maria Carreno’s granddaughter, Delphine, helped decorate these) to celebrate 6 birthdays- three from our teens: Maryiam and Haroon Bhatti, and Anthony Terminelle, and three were residents from the Health Center. The air was filled with fun and excitement. The staff and residents were very happy with our visit and have asked us to return soon. We could possibly do that in April. Also, Rock Solid recently purchased a 40% off- fold it up-split it apart- roll it away-state of the art ping pong table. Not only is Rock Solid enjoying the table, but King of Kings, and Sunday School kids are too.

King of Kings recently learned how Jesus was found by Mary and Joseph at the temple in Jerusalem after searching for him for 3 days. Pretty significant number, don’t you think? They also learned how Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. We learned about this baptism and what baptism means and of course added our own spin on a memorable activity. Attendance ranges from 24-36 kids weekly. We have four groups that rotate between activities. They are the Chickadees, Robins, Cardinals, and Blue Jays (Four Calling Birds). The groups still 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. Dessert is served after the devotional activities are finished.

Sunday School “Bridges” Program meets in the Game Room on Sunday mornings at 9 am. Last week we began a music program. I brought my guitar. We started singing songs. The kids liked it! I think we’re onto something. From now on, I’ll bring my guitar on Sundays to start with music. Then Tina will lead a 20- minute Bible study, currently focusing on heroes in the Bible. Then we will conclude with a mission project. For now, we fit nicely in the game room. When we grow larger, we will return to the classrooms in the Christian Ed Building.

Adult Bible Study opportunities take place weekly and monthly.

Sunday morning at 8:50 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 and enjoy a very comfortable pace.

Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Cobb Lounge with Leo Ransone and Tina Harvey

The Martha Circle-meets 2nd Thurs of each month 10 am at Gerry Reedell’s house

The Ruth Circle- Meets 1st Friday of each month 1 pm at Betsy Cunius’s house

These circles are currently studying the Letter to Hebrews. Groups meet 9x throughout year skipping January, July, and August. Gerry always presents art to go with her lessons. She hopes more women, even men, attend. Recently the Martha Circle added 2 new members.

Our **Christian Ed Committee** will meet on March 04, 2018 at 11:30 in the Cobb Lounge.

To God be the Glory,
Priscilla Schultheis

Sunday School and Related News for March 2018

2018 has been quiet but busy so far. The Sunday morning group started making valentines for the residents of the Health Center of Galloway, helped decorate water bottles for Pennies for Pins and learned about how the love of Jesus can help us get through anything that comes our way. We are a small group and always welcome new friends with open arms. We are now in the Lenten season and will prepare to learn about sacrifice and resurrection! Come out and enjoy some delicious breakfast with some good fun and learning.

Highlights and Up Coming Events

◆ **February 25, 2018 – Pennies for Pins**

◆ **March 18, 2018 – Easter Egg Hunt/Easter presentation**

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 as we continue our study of the Letter to the Hebrews, we see those Hebrews are tempted to turn their backs on the gospel of Jesus Christ and return to their former life of Judaism with its observances of the law. The author attempts to lead them back to the Christian faith by contrasting two mountains. The first mountain, Sinai, represents the past, the place from which they have come. The second mountain is Zion where Jerusalem is situated. This new Jerusalem is the dwelling place of God where they receive blessings and grace.

The **Ruth Circle** will meet at 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 2nd at the home of Betsy Cunius. The **Martha Circle** will meet at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 8th at the home of Gerry Reedell. All women of the church are encouraged to attend the circle of your choice for fellowship and Bible study. We will be happy to see you and you will be warmly welcomed.

New Opportunity for Study

A group of interested people will start a Wednesday night Bible study beginning March 7. We will meet in Cobb lounge at 7:00p.

Because we don't yet have a new called pastor our studies will be self-generated and self-led, with input from clergy with ties to our church.

If you feel that fellowship and study such as this will fill a spiritual need for you please join us. Contact Leo at 264-6545 or 646-5154 or see him at church.



Painting Party!

Save the date for a painting party in Madden Hall on March 10th from 2:30-5:00PM. Sign up by Sunday, March 4th with JoAnn Sabo. Cost is \$30 to be paid upon your arrival. This is also a fund booster for the Hygiene kits.

Hope to see you there!

Questions? Call JoAnn @233-8952



Family Promise Updates

Three families will be our Family Promise guests beginning March 18th until the following Saturday. The Merendino family will return and so will Whitley (mom), Kareem, Kasiyah, and Kasan. Joining us for the first time will be mom Melissa and her 3 year old daughter Lorelei. I will reach out between now and then for hosting help. Also regarding Family Promise, if you have a pick-up or van and can be available one or two Sundays per month for 1½ hours each time, you can serve FP by helping to transport the families' gear from church to church. Also, two van drivers are needed during the week to transport families between the host churches and the day center in Egg Harbor. Please see me if you are able to help.

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

Leo Ransone

Mission/Evangelism Chair

One Great Hour of Sharing

As we begin our Lenten journey we will again focus on our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People are the programs supported by our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. All programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

All offerings will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 25, and Easter Sunday, April 1.

The Mission Committee



WHY GOD?

By Lisa Whitaker

Go ahead, admit it - you have asked that question at least a FEW times in your life. Maybe not out loud, but in the depths of your heart. I think just about everyone asks this question at some crucial time in their life. Those times that precipitate that question more likely than not are negative circumstances in our lives - death of a loved one, a call from the doctor that says it IS cancer, children being gunned down while attending school, loss of a job, financial struggles, etc. You get the point.

A few weeks ago I found myself asking that question. I was having a conversation with God about it and I felt in my heart that God asked ME a question. Why don't I ever ask Why God when something GOOD happens. Why God did you heal my friend from cancer? Why God did you provide that money I needed? Why God do I get to go to beautiful places in the world? Why God was I born into a family that loves and cares for me?

My most recent trip to South Africa caused me to ponder this again. The Capetown region of the country where I was, is in a serious drought. The water levels are such that they are projecting a complete shutdown of the water supply in March because there will not be a sufficient amount. They are already planning on setting up water stations where people will have to come with barrels and buckets to retrieve a set amount of water allocated for each home. The whole time I was down there we were not allowed to flush toilets normally. In order to flush the toilet we had to use what they call gray water from our showers that we scooped out of the tub. We had to take 90 second showers (which I have mastered quite well) while standing in a big basin so the water would be caught. I could go on and on describing all the adaptations that are being made to preserve water. I found myself asking - Why God do I get to go home to free flowing water while thousands of people here are suffering from the drought?

I pondered this reversal of sorts - asking God why I am so blessed instead of asking why I am suffering or disappointed. It has caused me to examine my life and listen for the many times I grumble or complain or question God's goodness when things go bad, yet gloss right over questioning His goodness when I am blessed.

During this season of Lent, I want to discipline myself to ask God over and over why He has blessed me so much and refrain from questioning His goodness when the circumstances of life are not the way I want them to be. Give it a try and let's see how our perspectives shift as we are attune to the many, many ways God blesses us every day of our lives.

Thank you all for your prayers while I was in South Africa. This month of March I will be teaching in Discipleship Training Schools in Oregon and Wisconsin.

Much Love and Peace . . .

Lisa



Evergreens March 21 at Noon

Please note Evergreens will meet at noon for their sandwich luncheon on the third **Wednesday, March 21st**. Dessert and coffee will be provided.



Diane Birkbeck, Roy's daughter, will be our guest speaker. She will be speaking about the new CPR procedures and how to use a defibrillator. She is certified and a coordinator with Red Cross. Everyone is invited and new people are always welcomed.

Lunch Bunch March 07



Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Wednesday, March 7th, at Romanelli's Garden Café, 279 New York Rd in Galloway. The van will leave church at 11:30 for those who need a ride.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE



Keswick Easter Hymn Sing April 5th

Please join us for the Community Easter Hymn sing at America's Keswick, Whiting, NJ on **Thursday, April 5th**. Special Guest will be Michael Faircloth. The church van will leave Absecon at 8:30 AM and return at 2:30 PM. Cost is \$12.00 (cash) payable to Fran Weir, includes continental breakfast plus a delicious luncheon.

Call Fran at 646-8461 ASAP.

Want to Travel?

America's Keswick is sponsoring a bus trip Sept 19th to Sept 27th to Mackinac Island, MI and Wisconsin Dells. Please call Fran Weir at 646-8461 for details if interested.





Serving in March

Lay Assistants

04 David Burgess
11 Bill Keener
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, Jo-Ann Weller
25 Tina Brown, Greg Hamaty

Acolyte

04 Franklin Nale
11 Jackson Harvey
18 Laly Ramirez
25 Jacob Sabo

Deacon of the Month

Loretta Metz

Nursery

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

Van Drivers

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

Refreshment Hosts

04 Priscilla Schultheis
11 Vic & Anna Mae Werner
18 Join us for our Easter Luncheon
25 Alice Smith

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

Counters

04 Barbara & Bob Hudak
11 Leo Ransone, Nancy Conover
18 Lee Wolff, Kirk Conover
25 Dave & Judy Stebbins



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM



Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter plant for our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The plants will be delivered to the shut-ins of our church after the 10:00 a.m. service unless you indicate you will be taking them home. Orders **MUST** be in the office by **Sunday, March 18**, and may be submitted with payment by mail or in the offering plate.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I will be taking _____ plants with me after the 10:00 service.

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Plants at \$7.00 each

Amount Enclosed

Lilies _____
6" - 4+ blooms

Tulips _____
8" - 10 blooms

Daffodils _____
8" - premium

Hydrangeas _____
6" - single bloom

\$ _____



MISSION BOUQUET FORM

All funds donated as a "Mission Bouquet" will go to our Mission work of our church. If you would like to give a donation of any amount, please fill in the following and return to the church office by **Sunday, March 18**. Checks are to be made payable to the Absecon Presbyterian Church with "Mission Bouquet" on the memo line.



I would like to give \$ _____ in a Mission Bouquet to be dedicated as follows:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone: _____