



Good News



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A Note from Lisa Whitaker

January 2019

As we begin this New Year 2019 - I want to say a resounding THANK YOU for

your prayers, financial support and words of encouragement as I served with Youth With A Mission in 2018.

Here is just a brief look at some of the ministries your support allowed me to do . . .

- Teaching in Discipleship Training Schools in the US and Croatia
- Attend and present curriculum at leadership meetings for our European Discipleship programs
- Attend meetings as a member of our International Discipleship Training School team
- Staff (which means teach, walk alongside and disciple participants) in 2 different Master's programs for those pursuing degrees in Christian Formation and Discipleship
- Speak at 3 different women's retreats - in the US and Africa
- Participate in the leadership of a team launching a new Centre for Christian Formation and discipleship in YWAM's University of the Nations.
- Speak to local civic organizations, supporting churches and in a local high school

- Attend a writer's workshop as I prepare a manuscript for a book I am writing about my missions experiences the last 27 years

All of these activities allowed me to teach and disciple over 500 people just in this last year.

I so enjoy the many opportunities I have to sit down one on one with people and listen to their stories, share God's amazing love for them and dream of what God may want to do WITH them in their lives as they look to the future.

As I look to this coming year - it is already filled with more opportunities to teach and disciple. I will be hosting our International Discipleship Training School team here in Ocean City this February. I then head over to Ukraine to teach in a DTS. The spring continues with more teaching in Kentucky, meetings in South Africa, a European staff workshop in Paris and teaching in Germany. All of these trips will give me further opportunity to connect with the staff that I mentor and disciple across Europe and also some here in the US.

I look forward to sharing in person with you soon. Please come out and join me in worship on January 20th!

Thank you again for your on-going faithful support, Lisa

Dearest Friends at Absecon Presbyterian Church!

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas remembering the love God has for you. I know for many of us the Christmas season can be challenging, and for others, this year has been a time of great loss. But the joy of Christmas is not in the carols or the cookies, but the knowledge that God cared enough about creation - about each of us individually - to enter into creation in Jesus Christ, being born a baby, helpless as we are.

When we face the challenges of life, leaning on the scriptures God has given us can help us understand and discern God's will for us, even if never as completely as we might hope. This is why we study the scriptures, the Bible, a library of God's revelation in the world through a chosen people and then through Jesus, representing the union of both God and those chosen people, the meeting of heaven and earth, the beginning and the end, the catalyst for reconciling the whole world and making it new.

I want to invite you to prayerfully discern whether God is calling you to be a part of a new small group ministry here at Absecon Presbyterian Church by leading a bible study. I will be doing a training for small group leadership beginning January 14th, on every other Monday at 7:30 p.m. For about 90 minutes each week, I will discuss goals for small groups, reading and understanding the Bible, and how each of us has a role to play in preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested, please see me, call the church or sign up on the green clipboard. I hope that we can build upon the several meaningful and amazing small groups we have and see this grow as a vibrant ministry of this church, where each of you is called by God to be a part of healing a broken world to the glory of our God.

Grace and Peace in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Drew



Women's Circles



The Ruth Circle and the Martha Circle will not meet in January. Please join us in February when we will begin a new year-long Bible study about God's promises to us. We will begin in February with God's promise to Abraham in Genesis and end in December with God's promise in Revelation that death will be no more for the first things have passed away. Enjoy the month off and keep warm.



Mission/Evangelism

Our thanks go out to Carol Kleiner for her work on the shoe box gifts and Angel Tree. Lots of young people will have Christmas gifts because of Carol.

The Mission/Evangelism budget for 2019 has increased to \$31,500 compared to a conservative \$23,250 for 2018. Most of that increase will be devoted to local missions and

evangelism as our committee, and hopefully our church at large, become much more active in community outreach as we try to more effectively address homelessness and all of its associated problems in our immediate area. Planning has begun on a series of dinner meetings which we will call Loaves and Fishes. Local clergy and lay people from other churches, Family Promise officers and

associates, our own church members, and others who are concerned about these problems will be invited to discuss putting together a path forward as we join forces for a positive impact. We will also continue to support Lisa Whitaker's missionary work, Absecon Methodist Senior Center, Ranch Hope, Salvation Army, our Presbytery, AC Rescue Mission, Arc of Atlantic County, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Friends of Jean Webster, Real Partners Uganda, God Care Ministry in Pakistan, and Community Food Bank.

Several community outreach projects were started in 2018, most, but not all, dealing with homelessness. In one case, we successfully helped to relocate a homeless woman to Florida to rejoin family there. Two young men are now renting an apartment on their own after a transition through homelessness which we facilitated. Several families received Thanksgiving dinners through us, and another continues to receive food support. Another

family is also getting back on their feet with new jobs as well as lodging, food, and clothing support from Absecon Presbyterian Church through your Mission/Evangelism Committee. Several families have received help with utilities payments as well.

Our Bakely House family continues to try and work their way through very hard times. We are thankful that we have provided shelter for them from the cold winter and continue to work with them to find work in anticipation of a springtime departure into a better life for them.

In all of our past efforts, and in anticipation of future ones, we thank all the members of Absecon Presbyterian Church for your support, without which we could not accomplish our goals on your behalf.

Happy New Year!

In His service,
Leo Ransone, Chair



We here at Absecon Presbyterian Church have been so generous in our giving. We sent 46 boxes to Operation Christmas Child where they will be sent all over the world. Here in our area we gave 40 presents to the Salvation Army for special children. We certainly have spread Christmas happiness. Thank you all for your participation. Merry Christmas!



The Mission Committee



News from the Deacons

January 2019

Deacons wish you a blessed New Year and we are so excited for our church! We are so very blessed to have Pastor Drew and Claire with us as we start the year.

Deacons wish to thank you (yes, **you**) from our hearts for your monetary donations as we are solely funded by you. We have been able to assist many of our church families in need due to your generosity. Thank You! Our Deacons are: Russ Adkisson, Jaqueline Bhatti, Naida Burgess, Betsy Eberhard, Laurie McManus, Loretta Metz, Karen Muldoon, Alice Smith, and Debora Wong.

Communion may be received by anyone who has been baptized and believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We invite you to share the feast of Communion on January 6. Setting the communion table for January will be Jaqueline Bhatti and Naida Burgess. Deacon of the month for January is Naida Burgess. We celebrate the body of Christ with bread and the blood of Christ with grape juice. Some Deacons are now taking

Communion to homebound members, if you would like a Deacon to bring Communion to you please let us know.

Thank you for your continued donations to the Food Bank of South Jersey. Please continue to bring in items (no glass jars please) during the winter months. The Food Bank also takes laundry detergent and disposable baby diapers. Thank you for your kindness as your donations are so important. In 2018 we donated over 500 pounds of food YAY!

Deacons are honored that we were chosen to be the recipients this year of the newly created Magi Fund. Thank you dear friends for your amazing generosity!

Deacon's next meeting is to be determined.

Through Jesus all things are possible. Amen and Amen.

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



Fellowship Report

2018 was another busy year at APC.

Fellowship January a new slate of officers was voted in and installed after which we had a light lunch. We also had our first soup sale for the year followed by one in February. We netted over \$800.00.

March we had a fun night and dinner. We played "Name That Tune" with Rick DeKarski providing the music.

June 1st was our annual "Strawberry Festival" on-going for 150 years.

August was busy. We had a "going away" lunch and cake for our temporary supply Pastor Ivo & Pat Meilands. Later in August we welcomed our new minister Pastor Drew Mangione. After his ordination, we had a "Pie" reception for everyone in attendance.

October 27th the annual "Applefest" took place with homemade apple desserts and hot dogs with all the trimmings. The event was dedicated to Dorie Keener and the \$1,100.00 in proceeds were given to Gilda's Club for its ongoing support for survivors of cancer and/or their families. John Channell and the band provided the country music to make this an enjoyable night.

December 9 we served a continental breakfast and a covered dish lunch after the Christmas pageant was served to more than 100 people.

December 15th the "Mainland Choral Society" presented a wonderful concert to a packed sanctuary thanks to Joanie Hoenes after which, we had a "cupcake" reception in Madden Hall.

I want to thank all my Fellowship Committee for their help and all the other volunteers this year, especially for the breakfast cooks and helpers who show up every Sunday to do their thing!

God bless you all,
Donna Hughes, chair.





Nominating Committee

At a special meeting of the congregation this committee placed the following names in nomination for church officers. With no further nominations from the floor, these were then elected by unanimous vote:

Elders: Isaac Umoren, Ann Wallace and Anna Mae Werner

Trustees: Dan Hughes, Betty Lloyd and Melvin Washington

Deacons: Barbara Hughes and Vic Abelson

Ordination and installation of these officers will take place on January 27, 2019.



To My Church Family,

When my Parents were ill, the Absecon Presbyterian Church stepped in and treated me as one of their own. I was accepted as family by Every Single Member of the congregation. When my parents passed away, my church family was there to give me strength. This year my mother-in-law became gravely ill. And just as before, my church family was there for me. Every step of the way.

I am so grateful to be connected to such wonderful people. Thank you so much for remembering me and keeping me in your prayers. I truly believe that is why I continue to recover after my accident.

Sincerely,
Robin McBrearty



Russ and I would like to thank the Cemetery Committee and the church for the gift cards. It sure is nice to have some "extra" money for the holidays. Thanks again for thinking of us.

Russ & Lynn Adkisson



Dear Church Family,

Many thanks to you all for the generous Christmas gift. It will be put to good use for sure. I am indeed incredibly blessed to know and work with each of you.

With gratitude,
Gay



Absecon
Presbyterian
Church

Session

Kirk Conover
Linda Gillis, clerk
Donna Hughes
Bill Keener
Leo Ransone
Priscilla Schultheis
Anna Mae Werner
Lee Wolff
Don Wong

Deacons

Russell Adkisson Jr.
Jackie Bhatti
Naida Burgess
Betsy Eberhard
Laurie McManus
Loretta Metz
Karen Muldoon
Alice Smith
Debora Wong

Trustees

Nancy Conover
Cindy Gorgo
Bob S. Hudak
Jan Jorgensen
Ed Little
Don Wong, chair

Music Director

Rick DeKarski

Admin. Assistant

Gay Channell

**Christian Education
Coordinator**

Tina Harvey

Treasurer

Karen Sheeran

Custodian

Linda Adkisson

Pastor

Drew Mangione

Serving in January

Lay Assistants

06 Nicole Gillis
13 Priscilla Schultheis
20 Leo Ransone
27 Linda Gillis

Head Ushers

06 Vic & Rita Abelson
13 Elaine Risley & Jo-ann Weller
20 Mary Bew & Betty Lloyd
27 Dan & Barbara Hughes

Offering

06 Joan Nale & Franklin Nale
13 Jack & Dee Heil
20 Betty Price & Edith Budd
27 Tina Brown & Greg Hamaty

Acolyte

06 Franklin Nale
13 Jacob Sabo
20 Jack Little
27 Laly Ramirez

Deacon of the Month

Naida Burgess

Nursery

06 Darla Hand & Jackson Harvey
13 Claire Mangione & Laly Ramirez
20 Karen & Libby Little
27 Jackie & Maryiam Bhatti

Van Drivers

06 John Channell
13 Barbara Hughes
20 Tina Brown
27 Vic Abelson

Breakfast Club Kitchen Crew

06 Set-up: Priscilla Schultheis
Cook: Melvin Washington
Clean-up: Deb Wong &
Betsy Eberhard
13 Set-up: Kris Jenoriki
Cook: John Channell
Clean-up: Vic & Rita Abelson
20 Set-up: Donna Hughes
Cook: Dirk Williamson
Clean-up: Rob Perry
27 Set-up: Edith Budd
Cook: Leo Ransone
Clean-up: Jim Beatty

Counters

06 Lee Wolff & Kirk Conover
13 Dave & Judy Stebbins
20 Barbara & Bob Hudak
27 Barbara & Dan Hughes

