

February 2012



Our Friendly Visitor

Child's Play ... Grown-Up Lessons

Lisa Whitaker

Aunt Lisa: "I think I'll have some water."
Bailey: "I think I'll have some water."
Aunt Lisa: "What do you want Mom?"
Bailey: "What do you want Mom?"
Aunt Lisa: "Bailey, stop that . . ."
Bailey: "Bailey, stop that . . ."

Have you ever "played" this game with a child? The other night my niece decided to echo EVERYTHING I said - and I mean everything . . . she started with just the words and then she was laughing when I laughed, rolling her eyes when I rolled my eyes, etc. It started out a bit funny, then became a bit annoying, then I decided to say some funny things to her like -

Aunt Lisa: "I think I'll give Aunt Lisa \$100."
Bailey : "I think I'll give Aunt Lisa \$100."
Aunt Lisa: "You are precious."
Bailey : "You are precious."

. . . and on and on we went for quite a while . . . it was fun and entertaining!

As I was reflecting on that interaction with Bailey, I was reminded of a verse I have been meditating on this month - a verse that I felt like God spoke to me concerning 2012.

*" . . .you can tell the next generation, detail by detail the story of God, Our God forever, who guides us till the end of time." - Psalm 48:13b,14
(The Message)*

What stories am I telling my nieces, the students that I teach and the staff that I train? Every time I teach, I try and start with a story . . . when my nieces spend the night, we have "coffee" in the morning and I tell them stories of my most recent trip. So often both the students and my nieces will say - "Tell us another one."

(continued on page 2)

the monthly newsletter of the United Methodist Church at Absecon

(continued from page 1)

Child's Play ... Grown-Up Lessons

God instructs us to pass on to the next generation the stories of His faithfulness, the stories of our life where we have been challenged. The next generation needs to hear about God's faithfulness, His unwavering character, His incredible love.

As we tell them stories, they will go on to tell those stories. I found myself praying for Bailey (and my other nieces). I recognize that she is listening to me, watching me, repeating what I say, repeating how I live. The children in your life, whether young or old, whether family, friends, students, neighbors - they are listening, they are watching. What stories are you telling them? If they were to feedback to you word for word what you say to them - what would that sound like?

"I will open my mouth as a parable. I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generations to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done . . . that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" - Psalm 78:2-4, 6-8 (NASB)

I would appreciate your prayers this month as I will be traveling to both England and Azerbaijan. My prayer is that the words of my mouth would be worth repeating - not because of me, but because the words reflect God's story, the words will bear repeating because they tell of our incredible God and they bring life to those with whom I share.

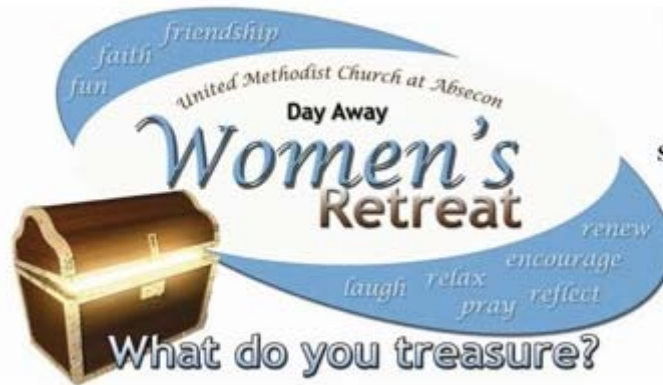
Take care and tell stories!

Lisa

On February 4 and 5, we are giving our Communion Offering in support of Lisa and her ministry with Youth With a Mission.

Please pray for Lisa this month as she travels.

If you would like to be notified electronically when a new edition of "Our Friendly Visitor" is published, please send your email address to: abseconumc@comcast.net.



Keynote Speaker:
Lisa Whitaker

When:
Saturday, March 3rd, 2012
10-2 (9:30 registration)

Where:
**Great Hall -
United Methodist
Church at Absecon**

What do you treasure? What does God treasure?

If God had a treasure chest to hold His most memorable items, what would be in it? How would those items reflect His character?

"I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches in secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by name, am the God of Israel." – Isaiah 45:3

We will also look in our own treasure chests and see how God can use those precious items to speak truth into our life as well as challenge us.

Cost: \$10 – cost includes lunch and materials
Registrations are due by Saturday, February 25, 2012

Detach and return form to:

Attn: UMW

The United Methodist Church at Absecon
100 Pitney Rd, Absecon, NJ 08201

Contacts: Sue Reitmeyer (652-1390 or sjreitmeyer@verizon.net)
Barbara Sabath (646-3271 or sabathbas@yahoo.com)

Child care is available upon request. Please contact Sue or Barbara for information.

~ Women's Retreat Day Away Registration Form ~

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

To view our church calendar, please look up the "Calendar" page on our church website:
www.abseconumc.com/calendar.htm

Atlantic City Rescue Mission Items

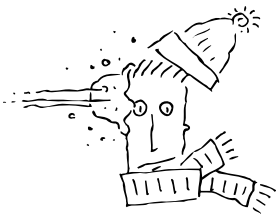
February collections will be over the counter medications and first aid products for men, women, and children. This includes aspirins and ibuprofens, cough and cold medicines, cough drops, vapor rubs, band-aids, ointments, etc.



Clothing for all ages is very appreciated at all times. At this time of year warm clothing (coats, hats, scarves, gloves) would be wonderful.

Thank you for all you do for this wonderful mission.

Snow??? What's That?



If you wake up to a *Winter Wonderland* one day and wonder if church, Sunday School or some other church event is canceled, please call the church office (641-1265).

If services or activities are canceled or postponed, you'll hear a recording giving you that information, even if the church office is closed.

If you hear our regular announcement,
then you will know that services and activities will be held as scheduled.

20-Somethings News

The Twenty-Somethings are continuing to meet every other week. Please stay posted to Facebook and the AUMC web site for location. All meetings will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. We would request that once the location is announced that you either let Ashley or me know if you will be attending.



Thanks,
Peggy Holmes
377-8251 / 576-0597

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United Methodist Women Update

- Our “Faithful Fingers” Prayer Shawl Ministry work meetings will be held on Mon., 2/6 at 10 am in U303 and on Thurs., 2/16, at 7 pm in U303 (use Atrium entrance). If you need yarn at any time, please check the closet. Right now we are working on replenishing our shawls, baby blankets, hats and scarves. If you would like to participate please contact Linda or Sue.
- As always please continue to support the AC Rescue Mission. Feb. collections will be over the counter medications and first aid products. Used clothing is always accepted and appreciated.
- Are you interested in sharing your cleaning talents? The size of our church is such a challenge on a weekly basis. We’re looking to set up some dates that we could come in and do area cleanups that once in a while just need that extra loving touch. If you are able to help please let us know and a time that would be convenient for you.
- Look for info on the March 3rd Women’s Retreat held in our Great Hall. This should be a “Treasure” to us all. It is being led by Lisa Whitaker so you know you’ll have fun as well.
- Our next meeting is planned for Wed. March 14 at 5:30pm - please save the date.



Please pray how you’ll be able to support our group. Suggestions are always welcome.

Sue Reitmeyer
652-1390

Linda Babcock
646-5675

Thank You!

I wish to thank everyone that came to visit or who called or sent a card while I was ill. It was very much appreciated and brought me much joy.

Most of all, I was so glad for the prayers that were said for me. I could feel them and they uplifted me. God heard them and gave me peace and comfort.

Thank you so much – I love you all.

Bev Heuer

To my Absecon UMC family,

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Happy New Year! May God's richest blessings be with you each and everyday of this coming new year. Not a day goes by that I don't think about the members of my "family at church." You all truly are a blessing to me. Without your love, prayers, encouragement, and support, my experience and missionary journey in Guatemala would not be possible. Thank you so much for your most generous financial gifts, given in love, to the November communion offering on my behalf. I appreciate, more than you know, all that you do for and give to "our" ministry here at Aselsi Ministries. God is so faithful and provides all that we need.

There is much excitement and many changes taking place on the Aselsi campus this year. Our clinics are up and running with more and more patients receiving care each week. Please pray with us that the new Father's Heart Clinic will see completion in the next month. Our new school for our special needs children, "Jesus' Little Lambs," will be started in the next few weeks. Ilio, our Bible college, began this semester with 18 new students. God is busy working in the lives of the Guatemalan people healing the sick, providing for their needs, saving souls for His kingdom, and preparing others to serve Him. What an energizing, spiritual environment!

Guatemala's new president was sworn into office yesterday. Please also be praying for him, the people of this country, and the missionaries working here to serve its people.

I am doing well, and continue to love my life and missionary ministry here in Chichi. Missed you at Christmas, but my two week stay with my Guatemalteco family during the Christmas holiday was very spiritual and family focused. I will be home with you in April.

Thanks again for your loyal and loving support. You will continue to be in my prayers, thoughts, and heart. I love you and miss you.

*In Christ always,
Carol Angelo*

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Conference Lay Speaking Courses

- Basic Lay Speaking Course -

The spring Basic Speaker's Course offering will be Saturday mornings 9:00 - 11:30 on February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 3 and 10 at Trinity UMC, 20 North Shore Rd. in Marmora. The instructor will be Rev. Juliann Henry.

Registration is \$50 and due in the **Conference Office** by Friday, February 3. Registrations received after February 3 are \$60. Forms for the Basic course are also available on the bulletin board in our coffee area.

- Advanced Lay Speaking Course -

The 2012 spring Advanced Speaking Course will be "Delivering an Effective Sermon" by David Franks and Tony Carroll.

The advanced classes will be Saturday mornings from 8:30 – 12 noon on March 17, 31 and April 14. Classes will be held at First UMC, 398 Bellevue Avenue in Hammonton. Rev. Thomas Stark (Good Shepherd - Northfield) will be the instructor. Registration forms for the spring classes can be found on the bulletin board in our coffee area.

Registration is \$50 and due in the **Conference Office** by Wednesday, February 1. Registrations received after February 1 will cost \$60.

Upcoming District Events

District Day of Learning

Sunday, February 12
Many different workshops from which to choose!
2 – 6 p.m., dinner following
St. Peter's UMC, Ocean City

*Registration packets for the **Day of Learning** are available on the Atrium literature table and at the back of the Great Hall.*

District Resource Day

"Passionate Worship and Bible Study"
Thursday, March 8
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Joy Moore
Laity Session begins at 7 p.m.
Good Shepherd UMC, Northfield

District Resource Day

"Intentional Faith Development / Radical Hospitality"
Wednesday, April 18
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Joe Daniels
Laity Session begins at 7 p.m.
First UMC, Cape May Court House

To view our church calendar, please look up the "Calendar" page on our church website:
www.abseconumc.com/calendar.htm

Save the Date

for warm food and fellowship



6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 29

at the

Annual Unity Dinner

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Absecon

Tickets will be available after worship
beginning the weekend of February 11 and 12

*Sponsored by
the churches of the
Absecon/Galloway
Clergy Fellowship*

Cookie Sale Report

What a fantastic response!

This year's Christmas cookie sale raised **\$6,115**, all of which goes to the milk program for the Mayan children in Guatemala.

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped - whether it was by baking, packing or buying. We could not have done it without **all** of you!

Susan Hackett and Sharon Wilson



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Serving in February

Ushers

8:30

Head Usher: Bill Whittles

Usher: Jill Whittles

10:45

Head Usher: Fred Reitmeyer

Ushers: Bob Derbyshire, Bill Ewell,
Jenn Holcombe, Ed Ireland

Lay Readers

5 8:30 - Tom Crawford

10:45 - Ben Davis

12 8:30 - Melissa Wilson

10:45 - Stacey Eisenlohr

19 8:30 - Susan Murdock

10:45 - Jim Daly

26 5:00 - Barbara Sabath

7:00 - Becky Lincoln

Acolytes

5 8:30 - Christopher McGinnis,
Justin McGinnis

10:45 - Thomas Dillard,
Andrew Katapodis

12 8:30 - Maya Fowler, Emily Maul

10:45 - Erica Butterhof, Antuan Mastro

19 8:30 - Juan Carlos Belmonte,
Julia Belmonte

10:45 - Ben Davis, Fred Maul

26 8:30 - Andrew Katapodis,
Eric Conklin

10:45 - Ryan Faircloth, Sean Faircloth



Facts & Figures

our church's financial synopsis - 2011 wrap-up

Ministry Giving for 2011 (Budget \$414,246.00)

Total Current Fund Giving for 2011: \$ 387,387.88

Total Current Fund Spending for 2011: \$ 399,753.54

Amount Given under Spending: \$ 12,365.66



New Horizons Giving for 2011 (Budget \$108,000)

New Horizons Giving for 2011: \$ 86,141.50

New Horizons Spending for 2011: \$ 107,856.00

Amount Given under Spending: \$ 21,714.50

*** In order to be good stewards, our Administrative Council reduced the current budget for 2011 by \$39,972.**

To view our church calendar, please look up the "Calendar" page on our church website:
www.abseconumc.com/calendar.htm

Birthday Greetings

2/1 Katherine Bell, Katie Hanko; 2/2 Susan Snyder, Kathy Pinto, Jill Whittles, Danielle Shenk, Nicolette DeVaul; 2/3 Robert Bleazard, Valerie Herron; 2/4 Florence McCarthy; 2/5 Charles Heuer, Dorothy Conover, Kaitlin Shenk, Adam Stearns III, Ryan Grace, Katie Martin; 2/6 Anna Cleary, Bill Griffiths; 2/7 Barbara Sabbath, Julie Bronson, Michael Warriner; 2/8 Donna Hill, Liz Derbyshire, Tarrant Jones, Ellsworth Gaskill, Sr., Zachary Goldberg; 2/9 Kajsa Cleary, Eva McKnight, John Manos, Rob Morrison, Sydney Reed; 2/10 Debby Bailey, Laurie Weingarten, Jackson Goodwin; 2/11 Joyce Poley, Jane Jones, Caitlin Ewell; 2/12 Rebecca Sabbath, Eric Bruce, Daniel Babin, Lilah Elkafas, Hannah Cavileer; 2/13 Luke Goodwin, Samantha Gilbert, Everest John; 2/14 Lucille Hertel; 2/16 Robert Bowen, Tom Carney; 2/17 Abby Ward, Brittney Bruno, Chip Garrison, Ross Gordon, Brian Miller, Eric Conklin; 2/18 Steven Mastro, Jr., Jemile Suka, Ellie Maloney; 2/19 Mertie Hooper; 2/20 Charles Abbott, Brandee Neiderhofer, Michael Newhall, Diana Batten, Peggy Holmes, Doris Glanville; 2/21 Chuck McGinnis, Jr., Frank Jones; 2/22 John Gorman; 2/23 Daniel Northridge, Gregory Mutchko; 2/24 Elizabeth Monteith, Jake Galushka; 2/25 Evelyn Gradick, Gary Morfitt, Erica Esser, Martin Bayer, Carol Iaconelli, Barbara Leute; 2/26 Matt Scarlett, Andy Weingarten, Michele Samanic, Jenavieve Coulon, Samuel Brownhill; 2/28 Savannah Butler, Meghan Gordon, Brett Westerfer; 2/29 Becky Weisbecker.



Anniversary Greetings

2/12 Dave and Luanne Lauer

2/13 Rich and Bev Heuer

2/14 Bob and Debbie Coulon, Gregory and Dawn Mutchko,
Peter and Judy Pine

2/17 Oscar and June Dutch

2/25 Bill and Pamela Stearns

2/28 Rick and Marianne Snyder

Have You Remembered The United Methodist Church at Absecon In Your Will?

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Our Worship Schedule

Saturday

5 p.m. – in the Sanctuary – Traditional Worship

Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship in the Great Hall

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School (*age 3 by October 1 through adult*)

10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Ed Davis

Pastor Emeritus: Dr. Rollo A. Michael

Director of Music: Priscilla Cunningham

Praise Team Director: Bob Coulon

Youth Director: Mike Andrews

Office Manager: Kay Stadlmeir

Office Assistant: Diane Miller

Nursery Director: Sue Reitmeyer

KidPraise Leader: Cassie Poulsen

Congregational Care Ministry Leader:
Valerie Civera

Director of Senior Center: Donna Payne

Custodians: Ragip and Jemile Suka

Publication Deadlines

Our Friendly Visitor (monthly e-newsletter) – the 20th of each month.

The Mainstay (weekly newsletter for worship services) – each Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Tidings (weekly email newsletter) – each Friday at 10 a.m.

Website

www.abseconumc.com

Email Address

abseconumc@comcast.net

Mailing Address

100 Pitney Road, Absecon, NJ 08201

Office Phone – 609-641-1265

Office Fax – 609-641-1233

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