

June 2010



## Our Friendly Visitor

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### Why Are We Having This Conversation? Pastor Ed Davis

In our worship services in May, we were talking about integrity and keeping our promises. George Munzing writes about a very interesting conversation between a father and his daughter...

*His daughter was looking for employment. She had two job possibilities. One she wanted very much and the other she didn't want, but would take as a second choice.*

*As you can imagine, the second-choice job came up first, and she was offered that job. She wanted to hold out for the other, but she didn't know if the other was going to come through. So she went ahead and accepted her second choice for her summer employment.*

*A few days later, as you also might expect, the other job became available to her, and she immediately wanted to quit the one she had accepted and go to the better job. So she went to her father for advice.*

*She said, "Dad, I have a problem." And she told him the situation. He looked her straight in the eye and said, "Did you accept the first job?"*

*She said, "Yes."*

*He said, "Did you promise you would work there this whole summer?"*

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the monthly newsletter of the United Methodist Church at Absecon

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## Why Are We Having This Conversation?

*She said, "Yes."*

*The father smiled a knowing smile and said, "Honey, then why are we having this conversation?"*

Promises....many are made, but in these days, many can't be trusted.

How about you....are you a promise maker....or a promise keeper?

**Anyone can make a promise.** Making promises is easy. As long as you have a functioning brain and means to communicate, you can make a promise. It's...

Easy

Effortless

Elementary

And takes no time at all.

**But keeping promises?** That is a little different. Actually following through and delivering on a promise can be...

Laborious

Arduous

Challenging

And worst of all, inconvenient.

### **So, are you a promise maker or a promise keeper?**

Jesus tells us in His Word,

*"Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' be 'No,'  
anything beyond this comes from the evil one."*

*Matthew 5:37*

### **Hmmm...Jesus says that we should just tell the truth? That's all?**

He says that if we tell someone we'll be there, or do that, or follow through...all we have to do is actually be there, do that, or follow through?

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## Why Are We Having This Conversation?

He says it should be that clear cut? No riders, parlays, or exceptions?

### **Wow, what a concept!**

Christian, this month I would like to encourage you to take a **Truth Challenge**. In this 30 day experience, stay true to your word 100% of the time.

Say what you mean and stick to it.

Follow through on a promise.

Show up when you said you would.

Cut out the little white lies and replace them with big, fat truths.

And then do it every month after that!

After all, the Christian faith is more than Sundays....it is about truth...all seven days.

I love you,

Pastor Ed

## Summer Worship Schedule

Our summer worship schedule begins on Father's Day weekend (June 19 and 20) and runs through Labor Day weekend (September 4 and 5).

### Saturday:

5:00 p.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

### Sunday:

9:05 a.m. – Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship in the Great Hall



## June Communion Offering



This year the walk is scheduled for Sunday, June 13. The United Methodist Homes of NJ sponsors this walk each year to benefit The Fellowship Fund.

Please join us with your prayers, presence and donations. You may place your donations in the offering plate in an envelope marked **“Walk for All Ages”** by June 13. The donations will be combined and given by the Absecon UMC. (Checks may be made payable to Absecon UMC.)

Our Communion Offering on June 5 and 6 is also dedicated to the Walk for All Ages. Contact Carol (652-5006), Debby (641-3220), or Sue (652-1390) for more information or if you would like to join them on the walk!

## Youth Group Info

If you were wondering how to get your Junior High or High School youth involved in our youth group and weren't sure how to go about it, here's what you need to know:

1. There is a web site specifically created for our youth at: [www.abseconyouth.com](http://www.abseconyouth.com). Here you will find information on both junior high and senior high youth groups, the Wednesday Night Youth Bible Study, our upcoming schedule, special events and mission projects, plus daily devotions. Also, there is a link to our Facebook page.
2. There is an email newsletter that comes out every Tuesday morning. Just send an email to [mike@abseconyouth.com](mailto:mike@abseconyouth.com) asking to be put on the mailing list. The newsletter contains our schedule, some devotions, some jokes and assorted stuff along with contact information for...
3. Your youth leaders (Mike & Terry Andrews) can be reached by phone (609-226-4905) or email ([mike@abseconyouth.com](mailto:mike@abseconyouth.com)).



## MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES OF AUMC

The Mission Statement of the United Methodist Church at Absecon was born from the church's Spirit Search, which was held in 2008. Our Mission Statement is what we are committed to do as a church body. Core Values, which are listed below the Mission Statement, describe the way we accomplish our mission.

Please keep our Mission Statement and Core Values in the forefront of your mind. Hang them on your refrigerator. Pray over them. Ask God to help you live out these Core Values in order to move our congregation forward in ministry!

### Mission Statement

To ignite the Spirit of Christ in all, by encouraging a personal relationship with Him and by empowering all to serve, lead, and teach through modeling Christ.

### Core Values

1. **Devotion** – God calls us to be completely committed to Christ's calling on our lives by regularly spending time with Christ in His Word, in prayer, in servant ministry, and in worship with our church body, for if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.
2. **Faith** – God calls us to place our trust in the resurrected Christ and to be diligent in our response to God's calling in our lives, for faith is evidence that Christ exists.
3. **Grace** – God calls us to extend favor and kindness with understanding in all circumstances, for grace is the gift of salvation freely given by God.
4. **Love** – God calls us to love unconditionally, showing patience and compassion to others through hopefulness and trust in the Lord because He first loved us.
5. **Respect** – God calls us to regard others with high honor and admiration in all situations, for we are to think of others as higher than ourselves.
6. **Unity** – As a group of diverse individuals, God calls us to be one in spirit and purpose brought together to be interdependent, guided by the Holy Spirit and called to model Christ, for the church is a body made of many parts.
7. **Vision** – God calls us to encourage all people to seek the reality and power of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, for all things come from God the Father.

## Advance Notice for Fall Meetings

### Acolyte Training

Acolytes, please mark your calendars now for Wednesday, September 22, at 7 p.m. There will be an acolyte meeting that evening in the Sanctuary. All current acolytes and those entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade who wish to serve are asked to attend.

### Confirmation Class

This year, Confirmation class will begin Sunday, September 26, and run through Sunday, October 31. The class time is 12 Noon until 1:15 p.m. Those who complete the class will be received as new members in the church on Sunday, November 14, at the 10:45 service.



### 2011 Planning Meeting

Do you use the church facility for meetings, or hold fund raisers, or use the kitchen for projects? If your answer is “yes,” please set aside Saturday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. As a continuation of Spirit Search, Pastor Ed will be holding a Planning Meeting to discuss and schedule your **2011** events on the church calendar.

## UMW Update

- We will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, June 9, in the Memorial Room, from 5:30 - 7 PM. We hope at this time to confirm plans for summer activities and plan for the fall. Dinner is pizza or bring your own brown bag. Always happy to see new faces.
- Our “Faithful Fingers” Prayer Shawl Ministry work meetings will be held on Monday, June 7, at 10 a.m. in U303, and on Thursday, June 17, at 7 p.m. in U303 (please use the Atrium entrance). If you would like to participate please contact Linda or Sue.
- Tickets are still available for Women of Faith in September – contact Barb, 646-3271.
- As always please continue to support the AC Rescue Mission and our local Food Bank. For June, we are giving powdered drink mixes to the Rescue Mission.



*Sue Reitmeyer*  
652-1390

*Carol Hollows*  
266-5869

*Diane Lee*  
377-5668

*Linda Babcock*  
646-5675

## Celebrate Father's Day with KFC FUNday Sunday

Bring your dad and join us on June 20 from 11:00 a.m. to Noon in the Youth Room (following the summer Contemporary worship). We will be celebrating our dads with light refreshments and laughter.

For more information, contact Jennifer Holcombe (652-1224) or Susan Murdock (965-5646). Hope to see you there!



## Sunday School News



Join us after the 10:45 service on June 13 for our Annual Sunday School Picnic. Bring a salad or side dish to share. If you are available to set up, clean up or assist in anyway, please call Liz at 804-0068.

## VBS Update

### Registration Info

Vacation Bible School is being held from July 26-30 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Registration forms are available in each Sunday School Room, in this edition of *Our Friendly Visitor* and in the church office. Register early!!

### Snacks Needed

VBS is collecting individual snack packs and juice boxes. You will find a donation box in the coffee area. Thank you for your help.

### Help Wanted

VBS is also looking for more volunteers. Teachers, aides, and runners are needed. Please prayerfully consider helping this summer. We have an awesome program and guarantee you will have a blast!!! Contact Liz at 804-0068 or [lizclark358@aol.com](mailto:lizclark358@aol.com).



## Worship on the Big Screen!

Our closed circuit TV in the coffee area is now up and running! We will be operating this TV during the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services on Sunday mornings.

If you attend one of those services and need to step out of the Sanctuary (due to a rambunctious child, hacking cough, etc), you may view the service from the coffee area.



## Bible Study for Men



A men's Bible Study will begin Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial room. Bob Starn will lead the study of 1 John, 2 John and 3 John. New participants are welcome at any time.

## Children's Shoes for Guatemala

During the month of June, the Guatemala Mission Team is again collecting **new or slightly used** shoes for the children in Guatemala. We need **LITTLE SIZES** (size 2 – 7) for the 1 to 5 year-old children who are in the milk program at ASELSI. (Please, no adult sized shoes!)

We can also use older children's sizes (up to a child's age 3) for the home visits where we meet older children.

We found that putting a pair of shoes with the appropriate size socks into a gallon-size, zip-lock bag with the size and sex visibly written on the outside makes the job of distributing much easier.

No sandals or flip flops – the children need sturdy shoes for the rough terrain they must walk.

Any questions, please call Susan Hackett (641-1706). There will be marked containers outside the doors of all services. Thanks so much!



# Absecon Community Vacation Bible School Summer 2010

Dates: July 26 – 30, 2010  
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Ages: Age 4 by July 1, 2010 thru 8th grade  
Location: Absecon United Methodist Church  
Fees: Ages 4 thru 5th grade -- \$10 each child  
Grade 6 thru 8 -- \$30 (includes field trips)



*All registrations must be mailed.*

Return completed form with stamped self-addressed business envelope, along with all fees (check made payable to Community Church School), to:



Elizabeth Sabath  
526 West Herschel Street  
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

*For additional info, call 609-804-0068.*

*Register Early! Classes close when filled.*

Sponsored by Absecon United Methodist, Absecon Presbyterian, Reformation Lutheran and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Churches

*See next page for registration form.*

# Absecon Community Vacation Bible School Registration Form

**Please be certain to sign permission slip below.**

Name of Child	Grade completed by June 2010	Age	Birth Date
1 _____	_____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____	_____
4 _____	_____	_____	_____

**Allergies/Medical Concerns/FYI for teachers and staff:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency name / number if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I give the above mentioned child/children permission to attend Absecon Community  
Vacation Bible School.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO WE HAVE YOUR PERTINENT INFO?**

Have you recently moved or acquired a new phone number? *If you have changes to submit*, please complete the form below.

If you are not currently receiving *Tidings*, our Friday e-mail newsletter, please list your e-mail address.

Also, if your birthday or wedding anniversary is not listed in the monthly *Our Friendly Visitor*, please complete the appropriate lines.

Put the completed form in the collection plate or mail it to the church office (100 Pitney Road, Absecon, NJ 08201).

Family Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Birthday Greetings

**6/1** Jack Davis; **6/2** Doris Lowenstein, Judy Pine; **6/3** Lisa Whitaker, Josh Carroll, Pat Seel, Kevin Iaconelli, Maya Fowler; **6/4** Karly Pinto, Karen Hanko; **6/5** Susan Sear; **6/6** John Hill, Charlie Hill, Lucette Showell, Robert Welsch; **6/8** June Dutch, Chuck Dhyne; **6/9** Annie Stiver; **6/10** Tracey Ponzio, Hailey Cavileer; **6/11** Toni Stransky, Freida Riblet, Gillian Gaskill, Jacob DeRose, Jr.; **6/12** Marissa Sudol, Olivia Davis; **6/13** Debra Pacula, Dale Carroll, Caitlyn West, Sue Ciotti; **6/14** Jim Keeping, June Paprocki, Brenda Price, Kim Zelig; **6/16** Billy Hassall, Daniel Ponzio, Jr.; **6/17** Vivian Weaver, Coleman Simons; **6/18** Beth Lubben, Shannon Mac Phee, Ellene Weaver, Katie Crider, Tonya Neuweiler, Sheree Jones; **6/19** Lynn Catterson, Andrew Corea, Griffin Klein; **6/20** Ralph Manley, Sr., Michael Leavens, Jr., Ella Bencze; **6/21** Donald Dearborn, Linda Gronlund, Jean Scott, Hannah Davis, Michele Marshall; **6/22** Carol Bleazard, Megan Katapodis; **6/23** Debra Hartman, Ali Wade, Juan Carlos Belmonte, Kevin Cleary, Ashley Beauchemin, Aidan Zeck; **6/24** Taryn Wildermuth, Katie Ketschek, Samantha Ingerson; **6/25** Donna Thomas, Donna Lindsay, Sandra Manos, Steve Bechtler, Jason Ferdman; **6/26** Vito Pantilione; **6/27** Steven Hackett, Nancy Ring; **6/28** Bette Alsobrook; **6/29** Shannon Grace, Richard Bounds, Johnny De Vault; **6/30** Dottie Quigley, Tom Crawford, Zoe Simons, Mary Jane Snyder, Emma Margiel.

## Anniversary Greetings

**6/1** Christopher and Carolyn Corea; **6/2** Robert and Tonya Neuweiler; **6/5** Bob and Liz Derbyshire, Christopher and Celeste Disciullo; **6/6** Frank and Kris Rudisill, Frank and Betty Buck, Gary and Mary Poulsen; **6/7** Paul and Bobbie Gorman; **6/10** Chris and Laura Statuti, Bob and Molly Boyd; **6/11** Pastor Ed and Ann Davis; **6/13** Fred and Megan Nahas; **6/14** Stephen and Brenda Daniels; **6/16** David and Marjorie Parkhurst, Everett and Mertie Hooper, III; **6/18** Murph and Linda Brangenberg, Jim and Susan Brownhill; **6/20** David and Ali Wade; **6/21** Robert and Grace Iannacone; **6/23** Paul and Jo-Ann Scarlett, Brian and Christy Feehan; **6/24** R. Grant and Irma Michael, Jr., Mark and Joyce Petty; **6/25** Gary and Niki Giberson; **6/26** Dan and Laurie Weingarten; **6/27** Dennis and Carol Duffy; **6/28** David and Lisa Fleming, Charlie and Donna Hill; **6/30** Rich and Karen Beverly.

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