



Meet Our Members

Do You Know.....Jim and Joanna Bacon?

Jim was born in the mid-western town of Washington, Indiana. This is a small town in southwestern Indiana. Joanna was born in Cape May Court House, New Jersey. They both grew up on farms, but of very different types. Jim's farm was over 300 acres producing mostly wheat, corn and soybeans. Joanna's farm was small around 3 acres. They raised chickens and vegetables.

Jim attended Vincennes University and studied Engineering. After the university, he joined the Navy and was stationed in South Carolina on a submarine. Joanna studied cosmetology at Cape Technical School. Took her state boards and worked for approximately 10 years as a Cosmetologist Manager and shop owner. She later took various courses in computer and special education for dyslexic children. She then changed her employment into finance, where she stayed until retirement.

Jim and Joanna met at Parents Without Partners in 1989. They dated for approximately 10 years. Each had custody of their children. Jim has 4 children and Joanna has 2 children. They felt it would disrupt the lives of their children to move them to another school and location. All of those teen-age children in one house would have been very hard on every one. Especially with the two youngest children named Christina and Krystina. What are the odds of that? So they waited until April 9th 1999 to get married when all but one of the children had left the nest.

Jim retired in 2014 after working for Martek Marine Electronics. Joanna retired in 2016 from Atlantic Medical Imaging.

Both Jim and Joanna came to Messiah the same way. **Invited by a friend.** Joanna was invited by a girlfriend (Doris Schofield Jr.) when she was about 11 or 12 years old. She really liked Pastor Adler and his message. Jim was invited by Joanna to attend worship and various activities. Pastor Henry Ireland was pastor at this time. Joanna has been involved in many activities at Messiah. She first joined Luther League and the choir back in the sixty's. She has served as a Sunday school teacher, leader of the Worship Committee, Outreach Committee, Evangelism Committee and served on church council at various times. Joanna also produced the church bulletin in various years and served as church secretary. Jim has served on the Evangelism Committee and has been a past vice president of council.

Jim and Joanna have heard and enjoyed many wonderful sermons and made many friends while at Messiah. Their favorites activities have been the Pot Luck dinners, pancake suppers, and Lenten soup suppers. (Food who would have guessed) Their least favorite was the many hot nights at the Night Out in Dennis Township. (Boy was it hot many times.) But they did meet a lot of interesting people.)

Our wish is for Messiah to continue for at least another 100 years. This church has something special about it. It's not the building or the pastor. These have changed over the years. This church still has the same feel of warmth, love, and caring for others, that is so unusual in our time.

Soup Suppers and Lenten Videos

During Lent, we will be having a Soup Supper for five Wednesdays beginning on March 8. The Soup Suppers will begin at 6PM and will be followed by Lenten videos. Please join us for food and fellowship.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 26, immediately following our worship service. Council will be presenting a balanced budget! Please come to learn about all that has been happening at Messiah!

What's Happening in Sunday School?

Sunday School students collected cans of soup on Sunday, February 5 and Sunday, February 12, 2017. There were 96 cans of soup collected! The soup will be taken to St. Casimir's Food Bank. Thanks to all who participated in this Sunday School outreach activity!

Don't forget to bring in your extra change to place in the "Pennies for Kids" collection container on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. Once the container is filled, the money will be sent to St. Casimir's Food Bank.

We thank all who have volunteered to teach Sunday School. Volunteers are still needed for March, April and May. Please see Pat Gerew to help with this important ministry. Easy lesson plans and activities are provided.

Jambalaya Jam and Jazz Festival

Messiah Lutheran Church will host its 5th annual Jazz and Jambalaya Festival on Shrove Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 at 6:00pm. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent.

The Atlantic City Jazz Band is a popular seven piece ensemble which plays hot jazz and swing from the 20s and 30s. Jambalaya, corn muffins, dessert and soft drinks will be served and a silent auction will be held. The event highlights the fight against addiction in Cape May County. Proceeds will benefit Cape Assist, Parent to Parent and Messiah's anti-addiction ministries. The ticket price is \$25.00.

Messiah members are needed to help with this amazing outreach ministry. We need volunteers to make corn bread (the recipe cards are on the door of the narthex) and desserts. Also needed are baskets for our silent auction. If you need basket ideas, simply search "silent auction basket ideas" on the internet and there are plenty of creative examples. Most of all, we need our members to attend the event, to help the night of the even, and to invite others to come. Please see Carol or Bill Boland or Jane Vitullo if you are willing to help or to sell tickets.

WELCA News

During the Lenten Season, there will be no flowers on the altar. Easter Flowers will once again be made available by WELCA for purchase by Messiah members.

The sale of cookbooks has been very successful! Before Christmas, WELCA members voted to send a check for \$500 to St. Casimir's Food Bank. At the last WELCA meeting, it was decided to send yet another check to the food bank for \$100.

Please remember that we still have many cookbooks left! They make fantastic hostess gifts, birthday gifts and stocking stuffers for Christmas. The purchase price remains \$8.00 or three cookbooks for \$20.00.

Our Ministry with Family Promise

Messiah Lutheran was blessed to be able to participate with Petersburg Methodist Church and Tuckahoe Methodist Church in hosting 3 families with 9 individuals who are being helped by Family Promise. Petersburg Methodist was the host church providing shelter to those in need. On January 11th, Harry & Denise LaBov, along with Ken Wynn, and Jack and Nancy Birkmeyer, provided dinner, dessert, fellowship and fun for the families. On January 14th, Henry and Joann Ireland, along with Paul and Bev Larson, enjoyed their evening providing dinner, dessert, conversation, and fellowship with all the children and adults.

Messiah Lutheran has proudly rejoined Family Promise in uniting with the faith community of Cape May County to provide shelter and meals to families without homes, enabling them to achieve sustainable independence. Messiah's next opportunity to help with this important outreach mission will occur the week of April 23, 2017. Please pray and think about bringing a meal, providing fellowship/activities, or simply by spending the night at the host church. You will never regret what you give to others. Please let Susan Harz (609-263-2668) know what you are available to do. Messiah's two days of service can and does change lives because being homeless affects every age, gender, and race.

Tom Miller

Tom Miller died of a heart attack on Saturday, February 4. For the convenience of his family, services were held at a church in Pennsylvania to which Tom and June belonged before moving to the shore. We are trying to get their daughter's or their son's address so we can let the family know that we mourn his loss with them.

Transition Team – A Busy Group!

Messiah's Transition Team has been extremely busy during the last month. At the meeting on January 9, team members did an exercise in which they determined that one common theme which is central to Messiah seems to be reaching out and seeing that people have Christ in their lives and all that they need to live good lives and to bring others to God. The members discussed how this might be done, how we can grow in awareness and interest in this, and how we can be sure that God's dreams for Messiah are our dreams. We did feel that we need to be more attentive to our own members' lives and needs as well as the needs of those in the community.

At our January 23 meeting, we began looking at the schematic for our ministry plan to identify what we are doing at Messiah and what we need to be doing but are not. Some topics discussed included the possibility of a Vacation Bible Camp which would have far less emphasis on fancy decorations and more emphasis on making the week less labor intense. Vacation Bible Camp would have campfire activities, a longer period for crafts while still retaining lesson, perhaps using a video, and of course, snack time. This will be discussed further. The team members did some further visioning. Included in the discussion of future opportunities was the possibility of emphasizing outreach activities during the summer when more people are around. Saturday evening services on our lawn, hymn sings, a part time summer pastor, were suggested as possibilities. In the winter, more emphasis would be placed on nurturing our own members including the formation of a calling/shepherding tree to keep in touch with members.

At the February 6 meeting, the team made plans for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maundy Thursday services at other churches would be recommended and for Good Friday, Messiah's doors would be open from noon to 3pm with special verses, prayers, and meditations provided. The group also devoted much time to expanding the ministry plan to include tasks and statuses of each ministry. By listing what is being done, by whom, and what still needs to be accomplished, we are better able to track progress and demonstrate a level of accountability. Once the ministry plan is completed, it will be presented to the congregation at a Third Sunday service.