



The Back Pew

The Newsletter of Leesburg Presbyterian Church,
Leesburg, Virginia.

Serving God and Neighbor in the Heart of Leesburg since 1804

www.leesburgpresbyterian.org

April 2010



PARSON'S POINT OF VIEW

Dear friends,

I love Easter! I love the pastel colors of Easter; I love coloring Easter eggs and hiding and finding them and the colorful straw baskets to place them in. I love Easter candy, especially those yummy Russell Stover's chocolate covered coconut nests. I love Easter memories of shopping with my mother and sisters for Easter outfits which, in addition to a dress, included a pretty hat, pair of gloves, purse, petticoat, black patent or white shoes and frilly socks! I love Easter flowers—tulips and daffodils, lilies and pansies. But, of course, all these loves swirl around the central LOVE of Easter, and that is God's powerful, compassionate, conquering love that broke through the darkness of death and evil, of sin and sorrow in the resurrection of our crucified Lord, Jesus of Nazareth.

For me Easter is not Easter without joining in a Sabbath gathering of those who would still follow Jesus and singing to the top of our lungs, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" I hope that wherever you are on Easter morning, whether here in northern Virginia or away visiting family or friends, you will gather with other Christians to sing your heart out about the good news of the Gospel truth—"Jesus Christ is risen! He is Risen Today!" And then enjoy the rest of the day eating chocolate bunnies!

Grace and peace,

Debbie

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—March 28th

9:45 am—Journey Through Holy Week
Special Church School for Children and Youth
Children's Choir will sing during 11:00 worship
and process with palms

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

The Living Last Supper and
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4th

Sunrise Service with John Sawyer preaching—6:30 am, Sanctuary
Worship—8:30 & 11:00 am
Easter Breakfast hosted by the Deacons—9:45 am
Children's Easter Story—10:00 am, Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt—10:15 am



God

What do you see when someone says, "God?"
What do you see in your mind?
Do you see a face—a person—a glow?
Can you describe what you find?

The sun was up early one morning
And I walked—as then I was young.
In the heavens the clouds were so beautiful—
Rays came from the center—the sun.

Now if I'm asked that same question—
I have an answer to give.
I see God up there watching my path
He tells me how I should live.

His face is the sun—it's a feeling—
The cloud like rays speak to me.
We each see Him in our very own way
But I know it's God that I see.

Even when it's raining or dark at night
There's that feeling in the air.
It's hard to describe—you have to have faith.
But I know that God is there.

By Norma S. Martin

Overlay

I learned something recently, if that is possible—to really *learn* as if the "r" is missing—to lean into something new that you have never registered before and it becomes a new place inside you longing to join the world around you.

I learned by leaning—leaning my body into the thrust of shovel, digging into nearly three-foot drifts of snow. The task: to uncover my car, completely buried in the next lot, clearing the path all the way there, shovel-heave by shovel-heave.

It took a lot of leaning.

Three and a half days of leaning, heaving, breathing the pure cold air into healing lungs, waking them up, the way bluejays skreaking in bare trees along my snowbound path are vividly alive as I work.

First day is a surprise: this is peaceful shoveling; it gets a bad rap. I relish bringing body to the ground, opening to the wonder of hands and arms flinging white, under gray sky now gently dropping new flakes, new layers to what I had so aptly uncovered, eliminating any possibility of apparent control in this situation with all its changes. I shovel anyway.

Next day: gray sky turns clear with morning, though my wrists at once question my bold determination, wondering why I insist on lifting blue-bladed shovel matching blue of sky. Let the Sun Do This! Despite imploring wrists, I continue, making art of glistening snowwall, feeling sheer beauty of snow.

Third day: is there any end to what we determine to do, to reach what seems allusively in front of us, buried under overlay of snow or desire? Can we ever reach reality like pay-dirt, buried treasure, or does it continue haunting us like a dream? My tired body commits to finding out. Whether or not I reach the car, I lean and heave.

The last half-day of shoveling comes late, after renewed commitment and a cup of cocoa. I am uncovering more than the car by the time shovel meets license plate identifying the gold. Not the kind to trade in the world, perhaps, but the replenishing kind, that which will not be buried, that which will not stay frozen but will move and melt, overlay and all, into golden green of spring.

By Mary Hunter Leach 2/2/10

Thank You

Pat Kropp and her family wish to thank everyone for their prayers, the many cards of encouragement and kind deeds following the death of Bill Kropp. Your support has been helpful to us in getting through this difficult time.



Circle I

Come join **Circle I** for a time of fun and fellowship as we continue our study of Joshua on April 8th, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles

Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles will meet on Wednesday, April 7th, at 7:30 pm in the church library. This year we are studying the book of Joshua.

All women are welcome to attend the monthly meetings. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Helen Taylor (703-777-6338) if you have any questions.



LPC Book Club

The LPC Book Club invites you to join us for fellowship and literary discussion (and occasional special events like author talks and birthday celebrations). We meet in the church lounge at 9:30 a.m. on the second Friday of

each month.

April 2nd—10:00 am — (Note **change** in date and time) *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. We will be joined by William Marsh's father Harry who was a journalist in Mississippi during the civil rights era and has some great stories to tell about that time and place.

May 14th — *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See

June 11th — *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morten

Please contact Jennifer Marsh with questions (jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com or 703-779-0042). All are welcome.

News from the Session

Members of the Session in 2010 are Jim Barnes (Clerk), Stuart Brown, Frank Gasperini, Jason Hovda, William Marsh, Donita Petersen, Pam Poisson, Holly Rhodes, Chuck Rodgers, John Sawyer, Beth Shockley, Kathi Stone and Bill Wingardner. Rev. Debbie Persons serves as Moderator.

Among actions taken by the Session this year:

Received into membership Douglas and Jennifer Sweeney by Profession of Faith, pending their baptisms; Joseph and Elizabeth Dame and Megan Merhaut by Reaffirmation of Faith; and Shana and Christopher Folk, Donald and Linda Gibson, Harry and Mary MacLeod, Ronald and Janet Aronson, and Dorothy Mathers by Letter of Transfer.

Approved a request to transfer the membership of Tushar, Karen, Eshan, Asha and Nitesh Misra to Union Congregational Church in East Walpole, Mass.

Approved the church budget for 2010.

Approved a special offering to provide relief to Haiti through Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

Approved a search committee for a staff person to lead the church's Christian education ministry. The members of the search committee are Ben Franklin (Chair), Wendy Bourloukas, Kim Vigil, Laura Herring, Heidi Renner, Cameron Spivey, William Marsh (*ex officio*) and Holly Rhodes (*ex officio*).

Approved the baptisms of Corinne Hovda and Sadie Mason.

The Session offered commendations for:

- Julie and Richard Koochagian for installing a new phone system for the church; and
- Julie Gross for her cheerful, effective service to the church and preschool.



CHURCH SCHOOL REMINDERS

Vacation Bible School is July 12-16, 2010

Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer

Volunteers Needed for Share-the-Care

The Share-the-Care program during the 11:00 am worship services needs Youth and Adult volunteers for April, May & June. This program is for Children age 4 through grade 1 every Sunday following Time with Children. All materials are provided...we just need YOU. Call Karen Werner.



TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00 AM.

Moms' Alive of Leesburg Presbyterian Church is a group of mothers with children of all ages, which meets once a week on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Our mission is to provide a social and supportive atmosphere for mothers in a Christian setting through fellowship, education and outreach. Areas of outreach include the LPC Preschool, Inova Loudoun Hospital, new/sick mothers, U.S. Military and LPC homebound, among others.

Every meeting consists of fellowship, snacks, devotions and an activity. Business meetings are held monthly. Childcare in the nursery is provided free of charge in order to allow the mothers a chance for fellowship and a respite from their children. Moms need not be members of Leesburg Presbyterian Church to attend. All are welcome. For more information see the bulletin board outside of the nursery or contact Sarah Jones at MASEcretary@lpcva.org or Lauren Vogan at MAPublicRelations@lpc.



Lent and Easter Church School Activities

Sunday, March 28th
Palm Sunday and Easter Happening

All church School Families meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am for a *Journey Through Holy Week* (Child care available in the Noah's Ark Nursery)

Parents are encouraged to attend with their children to share in the morning's activities. Jesus' Entry in Jerusalem will begin our time together, followed by interest centers, egg tree, palm crosses, God's eye and more!

*Adult Education classes will be held as usual:
The Christian Life—Lounge
Lenten Series—4/5 grade classroom (next to The choir room)

Sunday, April 4th
Easter Celebration

Following the Easter Breakfast, children are invited to come to the Sanctuary, about 10:00 am, for Easter music and story. An Egg Hunt will follow...you may bring your own basket or we will provide decorated bags.

Toddlers to Kindergarten age will hunt eggs in the back preschool playground, and Grades 1-5 will be on the front lawn. Thank you to the youth for the egg hunt event.



Share-the-Care will follow the Time With Children during the 11:00 am worship service on Easter. Church School resumes on Sunday, April 11th, at 9:45 am.

Easter Blessings
From the
Christian Education Committee



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE


OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Assistance to Haiti

Prayers are requested for the people of Haiti, where an earthquake on January 12th destroyed many buildings and cost many lives. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, is ill-equipped to handle such destruction. The PCUSA is still contacting its many partners in the country, and has set a \$1,000,000 goal for assistance to Haiti. You can give through this congregation, making the check out to the church, with DR000064 in the memo line, or by going to the denomination's website, www.pcusa.org/pda. You can find updates on what we are doing

to help at the same page on the website.

Please also keep Malawi in your prayers. Malawi also suffered from multiple earthquakes, on December 17, 2009. Although the deaths in Malawi were minimal, over 16,500 people were affected by these quakes. Many of them are now living in tents. If you would like to assist in the recovery efforts in Malawi, please follow the steps as noted above, noting



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 4, 2010

For more than 50 years this offering has been bringing smiles to the faces of those who receive and those who give this gift as we SHARE our gifts and the joy of Christ's love. "The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development.

The money is distributed equally to these three important programs:

Self Development of People program partners "with people living with poverty who want to take charge of their own lives"

Presbyterian Hunger Program. Works to help to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Responds to disasters and ministers to refugees.

Throughout March you received information in the Sunday bulletins and through inserts about some situations described above. A special envelope will be provided. The children of the church have also received boxes for their offering. We are so fortunate in our own lives. Please share your gifts on April 4th, Easter Sunday, as you share the joy of the risen Christ..

Loudoun Interfaith Relief's

Wish List

Cereal

Spaghetti Sauce with Meat

Peanut Butter (small jars)

Hearty Soups

Canned Tuna and Chicken

100% Fruit Juice,

Canned Fruit

Peas, Green Beans, and Corn

LOST & FOUND

There are a number of articles on the table outside the church office: pink jacket, boy's blue & black jacket, work gloves, children's gloves, and a grey hood. Please collect your belongings. They will be given to Salvation Army if they are not picked up soon.

Thanks!

Deadline for May Newsletter: April 18, 2010

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS AT LPC (Photos will be published next month)

Joe & Elizabeth Dame. Joe and Elizabeth both grew up in Harrisburg, PA and were high school sweethearts. They were married in 2008. Joe is a firefighter for Loudoun County and is stationed in Sterling. Elizabeth works in the fire marshal's office in Fairfax County, but would love to use her arts degree in the area of adult developmental disabilities. Joe was raised Presbyterian and Elizabeth, Lutheran, so when they moved to Leesburg it was important to find a church close by and that is how they found LPC and decided to make it their church home.

Don & Linda Gibson. Don grew up mainly in Florida and Linda grew up outside of Philadelphia. They met when the minister's daughter from Linda's church encouraged her to go with her to a USO dance at Fort Dix, NJ and Don was waiting to ship out to Germany the following day. They lived in Florida for close to 40 years and raised three sons. Don was an electrical inspector for the county and Linda worked in the medical field as office manager and HR manager. Their sons are now all here in this area, so upon retirement they decided to move here to be close to them and their 5 grandchildren.

Chris & Shana Folk. Shana's family moved around a lot when she was growing up, but she considers Pittsburgh her home. Chris grew up in Michigan. They met at a karaoke bar on the eve of the 2001 inauguration. They lived in Arlington before doing a stint in England, and then moved to Leesburg upon returning to the US. Chris' background is Methodist and Shana's is Presbyterian, so they wanted a smaller traditional church. Chris is the manager for a government contractor for Homeland Security and Shana is a human resources manager.

Harry & May MacLoud. May was born in Scotland and came to the US when she was three years old. She grew up in Ardmore, PA. Harry was raised in Maine. May was widowed at age 46 and with her two daughters grown, she decided to move to Florida with her mother and her aunt and that is where she met Harry. Linda Gibson is one of May's daughters and her other daughter lives in Ashville, NC. Harry and May moved to VA when Don and Linda moved here to be close to family. She has five grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Megan Florence Merhaut. Megan grew up in Chantilly, graduated from Chantilly high school and Strayer University. Megan lived in Round Hill for a couple of years before moving to Leesburg a little over a year with her three year old son, Jackson. Jackson will start preschool in August. Megan has worked for HAIS, a government contractor since 2001. Megan was raised Presbyterian, so she looked for a Presbyterian church when she moved to Leesburg.

Doug & Jennifer Sweeney. Doug and Jennifer are both from VA, Doug grew up in Richmond and Jennifer is from northern VA. They met in college at JMU. They lived in New York City for three years and were thrilled to move back to VA in 2009. At this writing they have two sons, Calvin who is six years old and in first grade and Jack who is five and in prekindergarten. Calvin and Jack's baby brother is expected on March 9. Doug is a CPA and works for KPMG in McLean. NOTE: Spencer Sweeney arrived on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.



ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL

Spring is here and with it comes two new avenues to explore on your faith journey. The 2009-2010 Adult Church School adventure continues.

Small Group Book Study – The Misunderstood Jew. Join John Sawyer as he leads the discussion of Jewish scholar Amy-Jill Levine's book, **The Misunderstood Jew**. As one book reviewer stated: *Levine shows how Christians often misunderstand Judaism in general, misunderstand the New Testament in particular, and thus yank Jesus out of his Jewish context...Levine offers a unique, deeper understanding of who Jesus was and what he taught.* A Jewish scholar, Ms. Levine is the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Books may be ordered in advance and purchased through LPC. See the signup sheet in the church office for details. Class begins April 11.

PASSING ON THE FAITH; The Spirituality of Children. We can be assured that children connect with God on many levels. Our task as parents or adults in their lives is to keep that connection alive. Are children Spiritual? Who nurtures the Spirituality of Children? What are Spiritual Practices for children and adults? Join Karen Werner to explore how we can take an active role in nurturing the spiritual lives of children and how to include them in our services of worship. This three-week course begins April 11.



Leesburg Presbyterian Church
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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship	8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Choir	7:30 p.m.

OUR CHURCH ELDERS: Jim Barnes—Clerk, Stuart Brown, Frank Gasperini, Jason Hovda, William Marsh, Donita Petersen, Pam Poisson, Holly Rhodes, Chuck Rodgers, John Sawyer, Beth Shockley, Kathi Stone, and Bill Wingardner.

DEACONS: Brenda Bengtson, Nancy Blaine, Rebecca Caprio, Sheila Finney, Sandy Gasperini, Kim Goldstein, Tom Gurney, Carla Holland, Julie Koochagian, Caroline Milne, Kristin Moats, and Jennifer Morris,

Sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter at www.lpcva.org!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.