



Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
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#### Worship Schedule

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Sunday Worship | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. |
| Church School  | 9:45 a.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, Sandy Gasperini, Kim Goldstein, Tom Gurney, Carla Holland, Julie Koochagian, Caroline Milne, Kristin Moats, Jennifer Morris, and Shirley Pearson

Sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter at [www.lpcva.org](http://www.lpcva.org)!

Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
207 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176

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



# 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](http://www.leesburgpresbyterian.org)

November 2010



When Paul wrote to Timothy, his young protégée, from a Roman prison, he desperately wanted to encourage Timothy to be persistent, strong, and tenacious with his calling of preaching the Gospel in a culture, both church and secular, that offered many competing claims for the truth. Rev. Lillian Daniel, senior minister of the First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn, IL wrote the following reflection on the portion from 2 Timothy that was our text in the sermon on Sunday, 10/24. All I can add is one big "DITTO." What do you think?

*Debbie*

## Things I am Tired of

Excerpt from 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

"For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires . . . ."

I am tired of hearing people say stupid things in the name of Christianity. I am tired of nutty pistol-packing pastors who want to burn the Koran. I am tired of televangelists who claim that natural disasters are the will of God. I am tired of Christians who respond to the pain of disease with a lecture about behavior. I am tired of preachers who promise prosperity.

I am also tired of people who say that they are privately spiritual but not religious. I am tired of people who have one bad experience with a church and paint the whole of Christianity with that brush. I am tired of celebrities who criticize the church for being patriarchal and homophobic but do nothing to support the churches that are not.

I am tired of people who say they want a church like ours but cannot be bothered to attend one. And I am tired of people who criticize churches like ours and go somewhere else.

So I resonate with the angry words from this letter to the early church. I feel like I live in a society where the stupid and simple in spirituality always trump the depths of a complex faith. We are a people of itchy ears, who depart from sound doctrine in favor of easy answers.

Perhaps I am really just tired of myself. In criticizing others in their faith, I hardly live up to the best in my own faith. Perhaps the people who irritate me the most are exposing my own false doctrines.

Prayer

God, guide me toward true doctrine, not of my own making but of yours. Keep my focus on the one who died on the cross, and not on the little mini-god I have created in my own image. Amen.



### LPC Book Club

Book Club will meet on November 12th, and we welcome new and returning members. We will meet at 9:30 in the Lounge. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

Contact Jennifer Marsh with any questions (703-779-0042) or [jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com).

Our reading list for the next couple of months:

- November 12**—*The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake
- December 10**—*Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

### Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles will meet Wednesday, November 3rd at 7:30 pm in the church library.

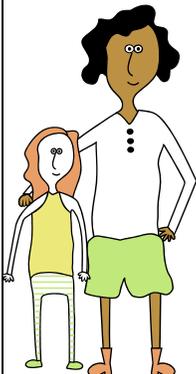
This season we are studying the Book of Revelation. All women are welcome to attend.



Contact Shirley Pearson at 703-777-7425 if you have any questions.

### Mom’s Alive!

Mothers with children of all ages meet on Tuesday morning at 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church in fellowship hall. Our mission is to provide a social and supportive atmosphere for mothers in a Christian setting through fellowship, education and outreach. If you have questions you may contact Sarah Jones at [MASecretary@lpcva.org](mailto:MASecretary@lpcva.org) or Lauren Vogan at [MAPublicRelations@lpcva.org](mailto:MAPublicRelations@lpcva.org). All Mom’s are welcome!



### Monday Morning Stitchers



We have a great group of ladies that stitch on the 3rd Monday of each month at the home of Jane Ashbaugh.

We want to invite anyone that would like to join us. We are a very informal group—you can just bring whatever project you are working on and stitch and visit with us. Sometimes we even work on a project together!

If you have ever wanted to learn counted thread, canvas work (needlepoint) or cross stitch on linen, now is the time! It’s not just cross stitch anymore! So, check your calendars and see if you can join us on November 15th at 11:00 a.m. at Jane’s house. (420 W. Market Street) Please call if you have any questions. (703-779-0747)

### Circle One

Circle One will meet Thursday, November 4th, at 10:00 a.m. at the church for a lively discussion of lesson two of our revealing study of Revelation. Join us for a morning of fellowship and study and a whole lot of fun. See you then! For more information, contact Laura Herring, 703-777-7639.



### Bridge Group



Bridge Group meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 10:00 for a lively session of cards and fellowship. New players welcome. Contact the office if you would like to play (703-777-4163).

### FALL MANNA CONTINUES!

Our Wednesday night suppers, fellowship, and faith enrichment series, MANNA, continues November 3rd and 10th. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. in fellowship hall, followed by programs for both children and adults from 6:45 to 7:30.

Julie Koochagian and her team of Deacons will provide all the food but we can always use extra hands! If you are interested in contributing a dessert, or assisting the deacons with food preparation or cleanup, please contact the church office. As always, no RSVP is required, but if you're able, a small contribution of \$4 per adult, \$2 per child (max \$10 per family) is always appreciated!



Our theme for the adult series this season is *Discovering the Treasures of Different Faith Traditions:*

November 3 – The Tradition of Unitarianism  
 November 10 – The Tradition of Conservative Judaism

### BIBLES FOR OUR YOUTH

*Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Proverbs 22:6*

On Sunday, November 14, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, our third, fourth and fifth graders will receive their own Bibles. *God's word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Psalm 119:105 NRSV); consequently, Leesburg Presbyterian Church offers this Bible as a gift to encourage families to read and study God's word. Join us as we worship and celebrate this wonderful time in the life of the church.



PARENT AND YOUTH ORIENTATION: Sunday, November 14, 9:45 –10:45, Room #10 4th/5th grade classroom

#### Recipients:

- |                                  |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Annabelle Amado</i>           | <i>Charlotte Ann McAfee</i>      | <i>Jordan Elizabeth Potter</i> |
| <i>Emily Robin Bourloukas</i>    | <i>Cassandra Angelica McGill</i> | <i>Matthew Renner</i>          |
| <i>Olivia Sue Gettier</i>        | <i>Clarissa Lucille McGill</i>   | <i>Taylor Nicole Vigil</i>     |
| <i>Elizabeth Woodruff Howard</i> | <i>Trinity Lyn Neely</i>         | <i>Andrew C. Wright</i>        |
| <i>Sara Noelle Koochagian</i>    | <i>Owen Patrick Poisson</i>      | <i>Benjamin N. D. Wright</i>   |
| <i>Tristan Joseph Kunec</i>      | <i>Kyle Matthew Potter</i>       |                                |

### 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 in September:

- \* Received Lauren Eckart, Cynthia Geaneas and Catherine Morton into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- \* Received Nicole and Scott Lutz by into membership by Profession of Faith, pending their baptisms.
- \* Authorized the expenditure of \$2,000 for an independent financial review of LPC's 2009 finances by Bullock and Associates, as required under the Book of Order.

The Session offered commendations for:

- \* Rev. Audrey Wiggins for her phenomenal sermon on stewardship on October 17;
- \* Peggy Moats for organizing the impressive assortment of breads on World Communion Sunday; and
- \* Five-year-old Megan Helge for her insightful observation that the biblical Sarah was about the same age as Rev. Parsons.



## Community Holiday Coalition Needs Your Help

A giving tree with "ornaments" will be in Fellowship Hall on November 14. Please help make dreams come true for less fortunate residents of Loudoun County this Christmas. Choose an ornament with a description of a child, teen, or senior; buy an age appropriate gift; and place it (unwrapped) under the tree by December 7. Your gifts will be delivered to Community Holiday Coalition's "store" where clients shop for presents and food for their families. If you have questions or want to learn about other ways to help, see a member of the Mission and Witness Committee or visit Community Holiday Coalition's website.

### Suggestions:

**Clothing:** Complete outfits for infants through teens. Sweaters, warm socks, and hats and gloves for seniors.

**Toys:** New toys of all kinds for infants through pre-teens.

**Teens:** New electronic games, jewelry, purses, toiletry items. This group is the biggest challenge!

**Seniors:** Blankets and quilts, warm sweaters and cardigans (especially sizes XL and up), hats and gloves, underwear (larger sizes) and socks.

**Gift Certificates:** Varied certificates (for teenage gifts in particular). Certificates in small amounts such as \$10.00 are easiest to distribute fairly.

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## NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE \* ALTERNATIVE MARKET \* DECEMBER 5

You are invited to the 2010 Alternative Market on Sunday, December 5, after both services in Fellowship Hall. Start the holiday season by shopping for alternative gifts!

The Mission and Witness Committee is hosting a Presbyterian Coffee Project. Fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate products will be available for purchase or to order as gifts. A warm cup of coffee (or tea) in our hands is perhaps the most tangible daily connection we have with farmers around the world. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life's pleasures both fine and simple. Buying fair trade ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it. By paying a fair price to the small-scale farmer, working with democratic cooperatives, offering affordable credit and supporting sustainable agriculture, we help these farmers build better lives. Coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate and sugar are certified fairly traded and organic products are certified organically grown and processed. Come, taste, and buy for family and friends or to enjoy for yourself this Christmas.

And you must see the Youth Groups' table! You will be able to purchase beautiful bracelets for just \$10 to help support children in Haiti.

You will also have an opportunity to give a special gift of food and shelter to those in need in Loudoun County. You can buy a \$15 share of a night's lodging or a \$25 gift card to Safeway or Wal-mart, in a friend or family member's name, to help the many visitors Rev. Parsons receives throughout the year.

Gift cards will be available to tell friends and family that a donation was made in their name.

We hope you will enjoy the new selections of gifts. Helping others in need - what a wonderful message to send this holiday season!

## Preschool Particulars

The Leesburg Presbyterian Church Preschool is “Fall”-ing into place and is crammed with activities for November!

The Lunch Bunch began and is enjoyed by all participating. The Extended Day is also going well. There are openings in both new offerings. There are also openings in the afternoon 3's class and afternoon 4's class...tell your friends! There will be a Non-Event Fundraiser in November with the monies going to the classrooms for new manipulatives, and school items. There is also a Thanksgiving Feast and Stocking Stuffer Event on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. This is done in conjunction with Loudoun County Coalition who sponsors “Neighbors Helping Neighbors Stocking Stuffer Event”. The Preschool will have 100 stockings to stuff and invite all to come and help out! The website has been updated with current Director's Newsletters on them. If you stop in to see the Preschool in action...you will have a hard time figuring out who is having the best time...the teachers or students!!! And check out the bulletin boards, the display of student work is amazing!!!



### ***November Adult Church School***

A new month, a new direction. Here's a look at what's ahead in November's Sunday Adult Church School.

**The Inter-Testamental Second Temple Period.** A term used to refer to the time period between the writings of the Old and New Testament, the inter-testamental period spans roughly four hundred years. Explore this exciting time with John Sawyer as he takes us from around 420 BC and the ministry of Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophets, to the time of John the Baptist in the early 1<sup>st</sup> century. **Meets November 7 – December 19.**

**The Book of Proverbs.** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” Proverbs is full of insights to help us learn to cope with life. For three weeks in November, join William Marsh in reading, interpreting and discussing Proverbs and its meaning for us today. **Meets November 7—November 21.**

### ***It's Not Just Your Kid's Sunday School***

## Interreligious Dialogue: Let's Talk About Islam

The religion of Islam has increasingly garnered attention in the United States in recent years, due to things such as the September 11th attacks, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the rise of global terrorism, and most presently, the so-called “Ground Zero” Islamic Center.



There is another side of Islam, however, than the one so often presented to us by the media and in popular reading materials. We will examine what Islam says about itself, paying special attention to its sacred text, the Qur'an, and drawing upon this book to answer theological questions about prophecy, creation, judgment, social structure, and interreligious dialogue. Finally, we will look at Islam in the modern world, in an attempt to better understand its relationship with the United States.

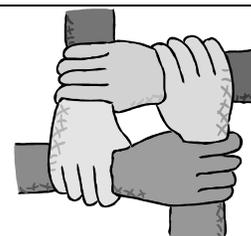
### Interfaith Day of Thanks: Experiencing our Oneness in our Diversity

Sunday, November 7, 2010

5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Northern Virginia Baha'i Center

21415 Cardinal Glen Circle, Sterling, Virginia 20164



Loudoun Interfaith BRIDGES, an interfaith group of which Leesburg Presbyterian Church is a member, will celebrate its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual INTERFAITH DAY OF THANKS on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a humongous pot-luck with churches, synagogues, congregations, and religious communities bringing food from their different traditions. The purpose of this gathering is to acknowledge and celebrate oneness through cultural and religious diversity in Loudoun County. We come together in thanks to highlight successful interfaith and multicultural programs and leaders in Loudoun County.

There will be a variety of musical and dance presentations and scholarships given to members in our community who have fostered inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and cooperation. Much of the time will simply be spent sharing food and conversation with each other.

Leesburg Presbyterian is buying a block of 10 tickets for our members to purchase who are interested in attending this wonderful multi-cultural event. Just reserve a ticket by calling the church office or e-mailing Rev. Parsons.

**Tickets: \$15 per adult/\$10 children (12 and under), 5 & under free or \$40 per family.**

**P.S. Our church has volunteered to bring 8 traditional Thanksgiving dishes to the event—any volunteers? Call Debbie**

### Church School Stewardship

#### *Holiday Stocking Stuffer Project*

Leesburg Presbyterian Church School classes are joining the LPC preschool in a fabulous and fun-filled stewardship project. Each class will prepare stockings and/or gift bags to support the Community Holliday Coalitions “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program. Gift bags and stockings will be given to children during the holidays. Each class will prepare stockings for children in their own age group.

Please bring items to church school and give to your child’s church school teacher. You can get a list of suggested stocking stuffers from the church school teachers.

Thanks for being a blessing during this holiday season!

