



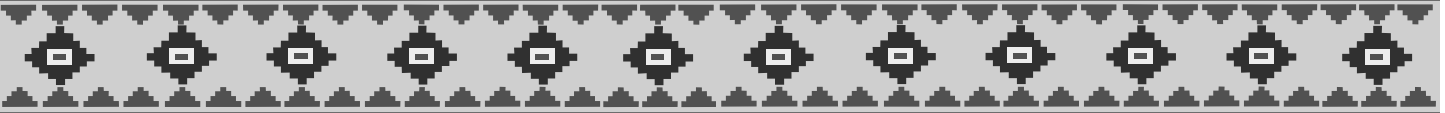
The Back Pew

The Newsletter of Leesburg Presbyterian Church,
Leesburg, Virginia

Serving God and Neighbor in the Heart of Leesburg since 1804

www.leesburgpresbyterian.org

August/September 2011



At the LPC officers' retreat last May, elders and deacons began a process of discerning who God is calling us to be as Christ's community at this place and time in Northern Virginia. We were challenged to imagine three circles – one, the contemporary historical context of doing ministry in Leesburg in the 21st Century; two, the collective strengths of our present congregation; three, the *apostolic spirit*, or areas of our life and work that enliven, invigorate and impassion our congregation. The intersection of these circles is where we should look for God's vision for our church.

As I write this, members of the Session are fine-tuning a "vision statement" or "statement of purpose" or "identity statement." At one Session meeting, several members clearly voiced that they did not want this statement to just be a pretty-sounding bit of word-smithing that we put on letterhead or our website and then forget about as we plan and implement ministry. There was a real desire that it become a living and breathing force that helps to shape our decisions and priorities about our ministry.

For this to happen, the whole congregation needs to get involved. Everyone said a loud AMEN to that! So here is our plan to get the congregation involved.

Sunday, August 28, is going to be "HOLY CONVERSATION SUNDAY."

10:00 Worship and Small Group Discussion

At the 10:00 service, we will gather for worship in the sanctuary for singing, children's message, prayer and the offering. The congregation will then be dismissed into groups, scatter across the building and, with an elder as leader, engage in conversation with each other about our calling as Christ's church here and now in Northern Virginia. The "vision statement" will be the guide for this conversation. Then we will reconvene in the sanctuary at 10:55 for our closing hymn and benediction.

Caregivers will be available to care for children six years and younger. Elementary school-aged children and youth will be in separate groups and be led in lively discussions as well.

Different, interesting, engaging, surprising, Spirit-guiding – Holy Conversation Sunday – let the visiting begin!

Grace and peace,

Debbie

LPC Book Club

Friday, September 9th, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for the first LPC Book Club meeting of the Fall on Friday, September 9th at 9:30 in the church lounge. We will discuss *Juliet*, a debut novel by Danish author Anne Fortier. The novel features Julie Jacobs, an American who travels to Siena in search of her Italian heritage and discovers she is descended from 14th-century Giulietta Tomei, whose story inspired Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Contact Jennifer Marsh for more information about book club (703-779-0042, jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com).



Please bring your ideas and be ready to vote on future reading selections!

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

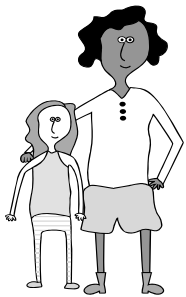
Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 p.m.

The Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles will begin the 2011-12 season with a potluck dinner at the home of Faye Vance, Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. Faye will provide beverages. Those attending should bring a salad, entrée or dessert. This year's study will be the Beatitudes. Study guides will be given out at this

meeting. If you have any questions, please call Shirley Pearson at 703-777-7425. For directions to Faye's house, please call Faye at 540-338-5103.



Moms Alive!



Mothers with children of all ages meet on Tuesday mornings when Loudoun County Public Schools are in session, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church in the Lounge. 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 or Lauren Vogan at MAPublicRelations@lpcva.org. All Moms are welcome!

Monday Morning Stitchers

Monday, September 19, 11:00 am



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. If you

have ever wanted to learn counted thread, canvas work (needlepoint) or cross stitch on linen, now is the time! Please call if you have any questions. (703-779-0747)

Circle One

Thursday, September 1, 10:00 a.m.

It's time to circle up for Circle One! We will begin our study of the Beatitudes on Thursday, September 1, at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Laura Herring at 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).



Did you Know?

Leesburg Presbyterian Church hosts a number of regular meetings of local support groups.

Al-Anon	Wednesdays	12:15 p.m.
Alzheimer's	First Thursdays	10:00 a.m.
Nar-Anon	Thursdays	7:00 p.m.
Overeaters	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
SA	Mondays	7:30 p.m.

Children's Church School 2011-2012 Calendar

September 11	Rally and Promotion Sunday
October 2	Giving of 3 rd Grade Bibles
November 13	General Assembly
November 24	Thanksgiving
November 27	No Church School
December 25	Christmas - No Church School
January 1	New Year's - No Church School
February 12	General Assembly
February 22	Ash Wednesday
February 22 - April 7	Lent
April 1	Palm Sunday
April 8	Easter Sunday - No Church School
April 29	General Assembly
May 27	Pentecost Sunday/Church School Close-out



Preschool - 1st Grade

Angela Helge
Holly Rhodes
Caroline Milne
Doug Sweeney

2nd/3rd Grade

Stacie Markel
Krista Ritsema
Doug Sweeney

4th/5th Grade

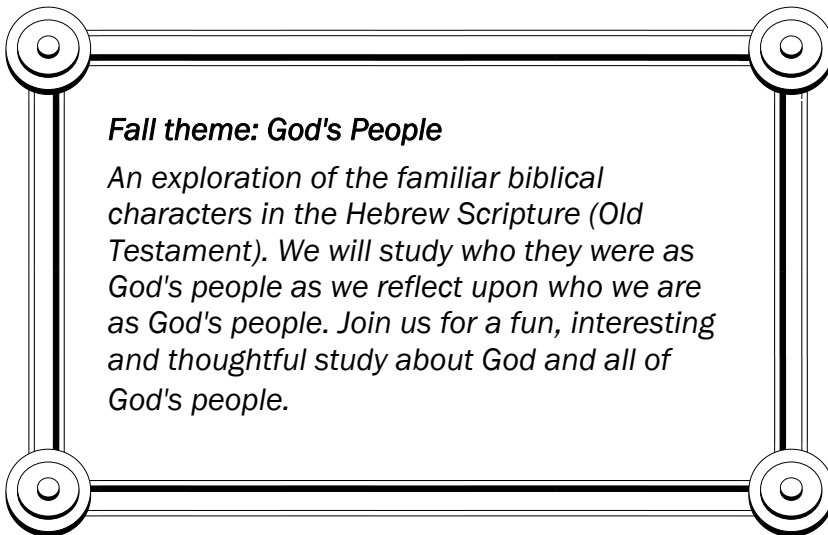
Heidi Renner
Teacher Needed

Middle School

William Marsh
Jennifer Marsh

High School

Wes Rhodes



Fall theme: God's People

An exploration of the familiar biblical characters in the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament). We will study who they were as God's people as we reflect upon who we are as God's people. Join us for a fun, interesting and thoughtful study about God and all of God's people.

Adult Education Class Offerings

Everything You Want to Know about Christian Faith But Were Afraid to Ask

September 18—May 20

Led by: Rev. Mark Penn, Rev. Debbie Parsons, Frank Gasperini, Rev. Audrey Wiggins, Dana Huntley, William Marsh, and John Sawyer

Spiritual Disciplines

September 18—October 30

Led by Betty Lowenbach

Parenting

November 6—December 18

Led By Julie Barnes and Rev. Debbie Parsons

Contemporary Issue TBA

January 8-29

Led by Ben Franklin

NOOMA

February 5-19

Led by Betty Lowenbach

Lenten Study

February 26—April 1

Led by Rev. Debbie Parsons

Replenish

FALL BACK INTO LIFE, AWAKENING YOUR YEARNING FOR GOD

A CENTERING MINI-RETREAT

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Followed by fellowship and lunch

Our relationship with God changes and transforms our lives. There is in many of us a deep desire for God, to be in God's presence, to know God personally. Yet our best efforts at prayer, church school, and worship often do not seem to give us what we're looking for. We find them routine or lifeless.

In this fall retreat, we will explore how Jesus ministers to us during times of stress, fragmentation, loneliness, busyness and inner pain. We will come to experience the kind of spiritual strength that leads to a life of more authentic joy, amazing beauty and magnificent service.

This retreat is open to everyone. Session members, Deacons, and Adult Education and Church School teachers are encouraged to attend.

Guided by: Rev. Dr. Donelda "Donnie" Cook,
Associate Vice President for Student Development and Director of the Counseling Center at
Loyola University

Location: Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at LPC

Cost: Free. Offering for lunch

Child Care Available

Preregistration required. See Sunday's bulletin or call the office for a form.

Contact Pastor Audrey (703-777-4163, dce@lpcva.org) or Sharon Brown (703-726-8829, sharonbrown@live.com) with questions or for more details.

Reflect



PRESCHOOL PARTICULARS

NOOOOO...it can't REALLY be time for school to start back up??? But alas, it is! You can tell because the school supplies are already out and on sale at the stores! LPC Preschool will be starting up with teachers returning August 31st and students, September 6th for Young 2's and 3's and 4's; and September 8th for the Older 2's. A Parent Orientation will be held at 7PM on September 1st. There are still some openings for students. For information, please call the Preschool and leave a message for our Director, Elaine Thiel. She will get back to you to set up a tour, etc. It is going to be another great year as all of the teachers are returning eager to meet their new classes!



Community Service Family Day - Real Food Farm, Baltimore Sat. Oct. 15, 9 am-12 Noon

The Mission & Witness Committee is pleased to announce that we will be offering LPC members, families and friends the opportunity to learn about urban agriculture and the challenges of getting real (healthy) food to neighborhoods in the heart of Baltimore city. Tyler Brown, son of Kathy & Brad Brown, is the Farm Manager at RFF and will direct several types of volunteer work projects on Saturday, October 15 from 9AM-12 Noon at:

Real Food Farm
Historic Lake Clifton High School Campus
2801 St. Lo Drive, Baltimore, MD 21213.

Volunteers who wish to carpool/drive in caravan will meet at LPC at 7:00AM for a 7:15AM departure.

Brad will need carpentry help to build end walls/doors for the hoop houses. The day's projects around the farm may include planting, weeding, invasive species removal, compost spreading, bed preparation and lots more. Potluck lunch will be at noon, rain or shine. Families are welcome. Plan to bring a water bottle, wear close-toed shoes, and come dressed to work. Volunteering together in the greater community is a wonderful way to get to know those with whom you worship on Sundays!

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS and coordinate car pools if possible. There will also be a sign up sheet displayed during fellowship hour where you can indicate either your gardening or carpentry interests.

Learn more: realfoodfarm.org

Contact Kathy Brown, 703-777-4656 or Kathi Stone, 703-777-7194 for more information about this service opportunity.



Real Food Farm offers Baltimore area teachers and students lots of ways to interact with the farm, including field trips and service-learning opportunities.

TWO-HOUR MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY IN LEESBURG

Do you have just two hours to spare on occasional Sunday afternoons, from 2:00 – 4:00? One time only or help as often as you like. Volunteers with the **Grace-to-Go Feeding Ministry**, organized by St. James Episcopal Church, cook a simple meal at the Deli South restaurant in Leesburg, and then package the meals. (Others will distribute the meals on Monday evenings at St. James.) Some members of LPC have participated already and it really is a very simple way that you can help provide a healthy meal to the working poor and others in need within our community. LPC eventually hopes to be assigned, along with two or three other churches and organizations, the 1st Sunday of the month on a regular basis (LPC has committed to six Sundays a year). But until then, we hope to establish a small group of volunteers to help occasionally when the churches and organizations who prepare the meals on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month need an extra hand. If you feel called to care for God's people in this way, call Kathi Stone (703-777-7194).



News from the Session

Current members of the Session are Jim Barnes (Clerk), Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Jason Hovda, Randy Jackson, William Marsh, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, Doug Sweeney and Jane Wallace. Rev. Debbie Persons serves as Moderator.

Among recent actions taken by the Session:

- Received Susan Sutter into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Reaffirmed that a quorum of the Session is one-third of the elders plus the moderator, except when receiving new members, when a quorum is two elders plus the moderator.
- Adopted the latest version of Robert’s Rules of Order as the parliamentary authority for all meetings of the congregation and Session.
- Scheduled a Congregational meeting to adopt the number needed for a quorum at Congregational meetings, and to elect officers for the LPC Corporation.
- Voted to recommend to the congregation that the following elders serve as officers for the LPC Corporation for 2011-2012: Randy Jackson, President, and Pam Poisson, Treasurer.
- Voted to become partners in the Energy Star program.
- Approved the following summer hours for the church office: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Friday.
- Approved the wedding of Angelica Cruz and Michael Matney in the church on September 10, 2011.
- Offered commendations for:
 - Holly Rhodes for her outstanding leadership and hard work with the Christian Education ministry;
 - Rev. Audrey Wiggins for her leadership of Vacation Bible School;
 - Pam Poisson for her excellent sermon on July 10; and
 - Nancy Vanzandt for providing Deacons’ assistance, comfort and care to Mary Elizabeth Williams.

HAVE YOUR PAPER AND PENCILS READY..
 (This is not a test)
School Supplies for kids



It’s the time of year when the kids head to school with back packs, pencils, paper, etc. Some children have to depend on the generosity of others, so each year efforts are made to get needed supplies for them. Many merchants, working with individuals, churches, social services, and other organizations have put together various opportunities to give needed school materials. Office Depot Foundation accepts donations specifically for new full backpacks. If you shop there, ask them about their program. Last year this foundation provided school materials and new back packs for children in the tornado devastated states.

Last year, Loudoun County’s Young Adult Project/ Services, (Social Services) collected supplies for distribution in Loudoun. This year, there will be a collection box at LPC! As we do our regular shopping, we can add “school supplies for other kids” to our list. Bring the supplies to the church by August 21st. Imagine! We are helping to send children to school with tools to achieve!

August/September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 21 Worship 10:00	8/22	8/23	8/24 Choir Practice 7:30	8/25	8/26 OFFICE CLOSED	8/27
August 28 Holy Conversation Sunday Worship 10:00	8/29	8/30	8/31 Choir Practice 7:30	9/1 Circle One 10:00	9/2	9/3
September 4 Worship 10:00	9/5 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	9/6 Moms Alive! 9:00 Deacons 7:00	9/7 Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 6:30	9/8	9/9 Book Club 9:30	9/10
September 11 Promotion Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Rally & Promotion 9:45	9/12 Preschool Board 7:00	9/13 Moms Alive! 9:00 Committees 7:00	9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17 Adult Retreat 9:00
September 18 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Finance Ctte 12:15	9/19 Stitches 11:00 Christian Ed Ctte 7:30	9/20 Moms Alive! 9:00 Session 7:30	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24
September 25 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45	9/26	9/27 Moms Alive! 9:00	9/28	9/29	9/30	10/1



Leesburg Presbyterian Church
Rev. Deborah Parsons
207 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176
Phone: 703-777-4163
E-mail: office@lpcva.org
www.lpcva.org

Summer Worship Schedule

June 12–September 4

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

We return to our Fall Schedule September 11

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Church School 9:45 a.m.

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

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

OUR CHURCH ELDERS: Jim Barnes—Clerk of Session, Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Jason Hovda, Randy Jackson, William Marsh, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, Doug Sweeney, Jane Wallace.

DEACONS: Glenna Bingham, Rebecca Caprio, Tom Chase, Sandy Gasperini, Kim Goldstein, Tom Gurney, Carla Holland, Julie Koochagian, Babe McGuire, Caroline Milne, Shirley Pearson, and Nancy Vanzandt.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
207 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

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