



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

December 2011/January 2012

A Note from the Pastor

In this newsletter, you will read about all of the many ways that we Leesburg Presbyterians and friends will celebrate A Life-Giving Christmas. What we hope to do in our worship, our mission-outreach, and our celebrations is to help make this season a life-giving rather than a life-sapping and life-stressing holiday. Our worship, mission outreach, and dinners and get-togethers are all focused on being open to receive the Hope, the Peace, the Love, the Joy that God-in-Becoming-One-with-Us desires to offers.

May it be so!

Debbie

A Life-Giving Christmas

2011 Advent/Christmas Celebration at LPC

November 27: *First Sunday of Advent—A Hope-Giving Christmas*
No Church School

December 4: *Second Sunday of Advent—A Peace-Giving Christmas*
Alternative Giving Christmas Faire

December 11: *Third Sunday of Advent—A Joy-Giving Christmas*
All Church Christmas Dinner and Christmas Program
5:00 First Seating
6:15 Christmas Program
7:00 Second Seating

December 18: *Fourth Sunday of Advent—A Love-Giving Christmas*

December 21: Living Nativity

December 24: *Christmas Eve*
5:00 Family Candlelight Service
7:00 Candlelight Service
11:00 Candlelight Service with Communion

December 25 and January 1: One Service at 11:00 a.m.
No Church School

Circles, Study, and Fellowship Groups

Moms Alive! Tuesdays, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

Mothers with children of all ages meet on Tuesday mornings when Loudoun County Public Schools are in session. Our mission is to provide a social and supportive atmosphere for mothers in a Christian setting through fellowship, education and outreach. We welcome our new members Lisa Weikel, Catherine Morton, Catarina Monge, Angela Helge, and Caroline Cikra. If you have questions you may contact Sarah Jones at MASecretary@lpcva.org or Lauren Vogan at MAPublicRelations@lpcva.org. All moms are welcome!

Bible Study Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Join us Wednesday mornings for a time of learning and fellowship.

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 4th, 7:30 p.m.

Our annual Christmas Party will take place at the home of Faye Vance. Members will be called as to what to bring for supper. We will have a \$10 or under gift exchange. No lesson this meeting—just fun! In January, we will resume our study of the Beatitudes with lesson 4, *Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice*. This is the 4th Beatitude in Matthew 5:6 and in Luke 6:21a, 25a. Betty Lowenbach will lead this lesson and we will meet in our usual place, the church library at 7:30 p.m.

Circle One Thursday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 5, 10:00 a.m.

The women of Circle One meet the first Thursday of each month for a time of fellowship, study and spirited discussion. Please accept our open invitation to join us December 1st at 10:00 am and/or January 5th at 10:00 am as we continue our look at the Beatitudes. No advance preparation needed. If you have questions about the study or Circle One, contact Laura Herring at 703-777-7639.

Bridge Group Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a lively session of cards and fellowship. New players welcome. Contact the office if you would like to play (703-777-4163).

LPC Book Club Friday, December 9, 9:30 a.m. Friday, January 13, 9:30 a.m.

December: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
January: *Unbroken* by Laura Hillebrand (January 13).
Contact Jennifer Marsh (703-779-0042; jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com) for more information about book club.

Monday Morning Stitchers Monday, December 19, 11:00 a.m. Monday, January 16, 11:00 a.m.

We have a great group of ladies who stitch on the 3rd Monday of each month at the home of Jane Ashbaugh. Bring whatever project you are working on and stitch and visit with us. If you ever wanted to learn counted thread, canvas work (needlepoint) or cross stitch on linen, now is the time! Call if you have any questions. (703-779-0747)

Annual Christmas Dinner



Sunday, December 11

First Seating: 5:00 PM

Second Seating: 7:00 PM

Program: 6:15 PM

“I’m Dreaming of a Christmas Special Just Like the Ones I Used to Know”

(An evening filled with surprises provided by LPCers of all ages!)

The Deacons invite you to a traditional holiday dinner. We will provide honey baked hams, assorted breads and rolls, and beverages. You complete the meal by bringing your tastiest side dish or dessert. Look in the bulletin for details and sign up sheet. See you there!



**“Yes, Virginia, there is worship on
Christmas morning
(and New Year’s as well)”**

True, it’s rare. True, it shakes up the usual order of Christmas morning and requires some flexibility and accommodation. But, also, true, is that it will be a joy-filled experience to gather with our church family on Christmas Sunday morning at 11:00 for a lovely, simple, song-filled worship celebration of the good news. Please come-as-you-are for a service of readings and carols and prayers. It’s a memory-in-the-making! Honestly, I am glad this doesn’t happen every Christmas, but when it does, I’m planning to put on my “dancing shoes” and celebrate!

Pastor Debbie



Join us for the Living Nativity!

December 21, 2011

6:30-8:00pm

Please join us at this year’s living nativity from 6:30-8:00pm on December 21st on the front lawn of the church. Look soon for sign-up sheets to be a part of the nativity. We’re looking for those who would like to be a part of the magical scene – we’ll need Josephs, Marys, angels, shepherds, and wise men to serve in 30-minute shifts. We’d also like for everyone to come observe this special part of Christmas at Leesburg Presbyterian Church. We’ll have cookies, warm drinks, great fellowship, and some of the animals who would have been there to witness the birth of Baby Jesus.

**2011 Alternative Giving Christmas Faire
December 4 - Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.**

For the past several years the Mission & Witness Committee has provided the congregation several opportunities to "shop" for alternative gifts during the holiday season. We have selected two local offerings (Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the St. James Grace-to-Go Feeding Ministry) and two international offerings (Heifer International and our friends in Malawi). A nice variety of fairly-traded and sustainably-grown coffee, tea, and chocolate that were popular last year will also be available, as well as a couple of new items. We hope you will enjoy supporting these worthwhile programs and your family and friends appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Haven't been to an alternative faire before? It's simple! Come to the Fellowship Hall on December 4, visit the display tables, talk to representatives about the organizations you are supporting, and purchase your "gifts." Cards will be available to give to family and friends that explain a donation has been made in their name. Questions may be directed to any member of the Mission and Witness Committee.

Heifer International supports families around the world with gifts of animals.

You and your family will be able to select from an assortment of animals for your personalized gift and colorful gift card.

"Grace to Go" Feeding Ministry, our newest church sponsored local mission project is a collaborative effort with St. James Episcopal Church and service organizations in Loudoun County to provide meals on a weekly basis for those in need. Your donation will fund the grocery bill for the LPC team's 2012 commitment to provide the food and volunteers to prepare about 200 healthy meals during the first Sunday afternoon of each month in the coming year.



Pastor's Discretionary Fund, You can give a special gift of food and shelter to those in need in Loudoun County. Your donation will fund the purchase of a share of a night's lodging or a \$25 gift card to Safeway or WalMart to help the many visitors Rev. Parsons receives throughout the year.

Embangweni Hospital, Malawi, our International partner of many years. The gift you select will pay for drugs and IV solutions to treat two children for pneumonia, treat four children for a bout of malaria, or cover the daily costs for child charity patients.



The Mission and Witness Committee is again hosting a Presbyterian Coffee Project during the Alternative Market. 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.

Community Holiday Coalition in 2011 “Brightening Up the Holidays”

The “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program was established in 1996 to be an enduring link between people who are in need and those who want to help. Over the past fifteen years this program has brought together thousands of volunteers and donors from all walks of life, working together to brighten up the holidays. In 2010, hundreds of volunteers and countless donors gave their time and resources to brighten the December Holiday Season to more than 1,400 families, including more than 3,300 children!



A giving tree with "ornaments" will be in Fellowship Hall beginning Nov 20 to support the Community Holiday Coalition's "store" where clients select presents for their families. This year the Mission & Witness Committee will focus our gifts on pre-teens and teens. Choose an ornament with a description of a child, buy an age appropriate gift, and place it (unwrapped) under the tree by Thursday, December 8. If you have questions or want to learn about other ways to help, see a member of the Mission and Witness Committee or visit www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition.

Gift Ideas for Pre-teens and Teens:

sports equipment, sport jerseys, duffle bags
 CD players & gift card for CDs
 video games – hand held or plug into TVs
 portable CD players
 board games, sudoku games
 flannel PJs for girls and fuzzy slippers
 flannel bottoms for guys
 bedding (twin or full size), pillows
 soft blankets/throws
 room décor items, like laser lights

unique lamps, neon lighted items
 jewelry, cosmetic & beauty kits, jewelry boxes
 hair dryers, curling & flat irons, electric curlers
 alarm clocks
 books
 cameras
 clothing, sweatshirts, jeans, hoodies (all sizes)
 stationary, diaries, wallets, purses
 store gift cards @ \$10 each (malls, Target, etc.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Sign up directly on the holiday coalition’s website for your volunteer shift, task, and to check where volunteers are needed: www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition. Email: holidayvolunteers@loudoun.gov, Call: 703-737-8367



Christmas Joy Offering December 18, 2011

“Good News of Great JOY!!” How familiar the words, and through this PC(USA) special offering it is especially true for future spiritual leaders and families of active and retired church workers through the Board of Pensions. The Christmas Joy offering also supports scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges, and helps students develop their gifts and find their calling.

This offering will be received on December 18th and there will be more information thru bulletins and inserts, as well as the Minutes for mission. Please take time to consider your gift to this offering.

Adult Education 2011–2012 at a Glance

EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Sacraments. During the first two weeks of December we will have a discussion of the sacraments that help us remember whose we are, and who we are. Those who are interested will also receive guidance on how to write a personal statement of faith as an individual project. Bring your coffee and come prepared for discussion and spiritual growth together.

Creation. In January, our adult Christian Education Series will begin with the Christian doctrine of creation. This doctrine is more than an analysis of the creation story in Genesis 1:1-31. To view God's creative activity as simply taking place in the distant past would be deceptively simple and it would fail to see the full depth of the phrase "In the beginning God created..." Please join us as John Sawyer leads us in reflection upon the Christian understanding of scripture's revelation of who the Creator God is and of God's creation in the light of what scripture tells us about the creator God.

Winter Session: December 4 – February 26

Topics: Sacraments, Creation, Predestination, Word of God, Christian Living, Sin

Led by: Frank Gasperini, John Sawyer, Dana Huntley, William Marsh, Pastor Debbie

Spring Session: March 4 – May 20

Topics: Eschatology, Resurrection, Creeds and Confessions

Led by: John Sawyer, Dana Huntley

EFFECTIVE PARENTING IN A DEFECTIVE WORLD

Continues Through December 18

Led by: Juli Barnes

This is a video/discussion course on the challenges of raising children with strong Christian principles and values in our modern world. This is a repeat of the course that was offered last winter. If you participated last year, please feel free to attend again. We will be using the same workbook. Any new participants who need a workbook may contact Juli at jatbarnes@msn.com. This class is appropriate for parents of elementary through middle-school children.

ANGER, PEACEMAKING, AND FORGIVENESS

January 8 – 29

Led by: Ben Franklin

What causes us to be angry? As Christians, how do we deal with this difficult emotion? How do we resolve conflicts that arise from anger, and reach a state of forgiveness? These questions and issues will be confronted in January. No reading is necessary, but attendees are invited to bring in their personal experiences with anger, conflict, and forgiveness.

NOOMA

February 5 – 19

Led by: Betty Lowenbach

LENTEN STUDY

February 26 – April 1

ADDITIONAL STUDY TBA

April 15 – May 20

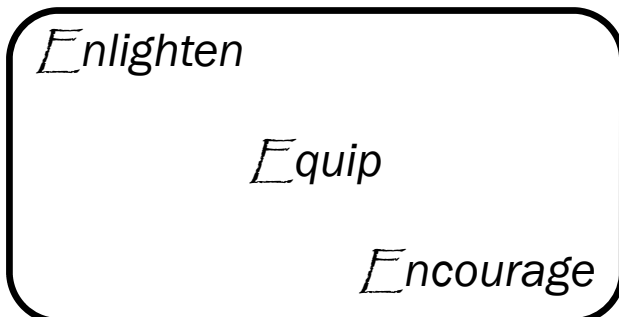
No Adult Classes

Thanksgiving Weekend, November 27

Christmas, December 25

New Year's Day, January 1

Easter Sunday, April 8



Welcome New Members!



Florence O'Hey was born in Williamsport, PA. She has lived in Leesburg for 30 years. She joined LPC because she likes the traditional church service. She has 3 grown children and 3 grandkids. Her oldest son is in the Marine Corp and is currently stationed in DC. She enjoys cooking, gardening, and reading.



Glenda Draves was born in Canada. She moved to Leesburg from Michigan. She currently lives with her son and daughter-in-law and grandkids. She likes to bead, garden, and read.



Suzy Masini was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Suzy graduated from Virginia Tech and met her husband Dave shortly after through a friend. She moved to Leesburg about 6 months ago from Raleigh, NC. She is a Senior Strategic Advisor at Deltek. Suzy has two boys. Christopher is 2 years old and William will be one in December. She likes to read and spend time with her family. She grew up Presbyterian and felt at home when she visited LPC.



Karisma Neely was born in Montgomery County, Maryland and currently lives in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Her in-laws are members of LPC. She and her husband are expecting their first baby in March. She likes to read and do anything water related.



Ashley Sowers has lived in Loudoun County most of her life, but she and husband Jeremy moved to Leesburg 4 years ago. She is a stay-at-home mom to their daughter Brooklyn, who is 3 months old. Ashley is also a professional trainer. Jeremy, who is originally from Louisville, KY, is a professional baseball player. Ashley and Jeremy enjoy playing tennis and soccer together and they travel when they can. The welcoming and caring nature of LPC's members and pastor are what led Ashley to become a member.

Charles and Nancy Eisenbise grew up in different areas of Pennsylvania, but moved 3 years ago to Loudoun from Fox Hill Farm, PA (near Westchester.) They are retired and live at Ashby Ponds where Charles enjoys bridge and Nancy is very much into crafts. Charles and Nancy lived for 33 years in Wilmington, DE where they attended Trinity Presbyterian Church. Charles worked as a school administrator while Nancy was an administrative assistant and also worked as a medical secretary. They wanted to become members at LPC because they identify with the order of worship and like Pastor Parsons' friendly style.



Gordon Mackay has lived in Loudoun County for 3 years. He is originally from New York and prior to moving to Leesburg, he was living in Bellmore, NY. Gordon retired from teaching school for 32.5 years and is presently living at Ashby Ponds where he enjoys reading. He also enjoys going to the beach when he can. He was raised reformed Presbyterian and was therefore invited to visit, and ultimately join, LPC by his friends and new members, Charles and Nancy Eisenbise.

Pledge Envelopes Available!



If you indicated on your pledge card that you wish to receive pledge envelopes, they will be available on Sunday, December 11th & 18th in

the pew at the front of the sanctuary. After the 18th, envelopes will be available in the vestibule.

If you don't find envelopes with your name, please contact the church office to request a set.

Hurry....quantities are limited!



Save the date!
Women's High Tea
February 18, 2012
2-4 pm

**Leesburg Presbyterian Church Preschool Board
and Teachers are Proud to Sponsor**

Parents Night Out!
Friday, December 2
6:00—8:30

Open to all LPC members and LPCP students and siblings.

Cost is \$15 for one child and \$25 for the family. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the preschool hall. You must complete a child information form for each child attending.

If you have any questions please contact Elaine Theil at 703-771-1461 or ettheil@lpcva.org.

**Proceeds to go to "Team Shawn" to support the
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.**



THANK YOU!

The Deacons would like to thank Sharon Schmidt for the fabulous meals she provided during the MANNA season. The food was spectacular, and we appreciate Sharon offering to be our cook this season. THANKS!

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:

- Accepted Suzanne Masini into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Approved the baptisms of Brooklyn Avery Sowers on Nov. 27, 2011, and William Joseph Masini on December 18, 2011.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Caroline Milne from the Board of Deacons.
- Authorized the following special offerings for 2012: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking on World Communion Day, and Joy Gift.

The Session has offered commendations for the following people:

- Jane Wallace and Nancy Vanzandt for helping with the recent funeral and in so many other areas.
- Steve Potter, Chris Folk, John Sawyer, Randy Jackson, and members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee – Pam Poisson, Julie Koochagian, Sheri Nelson and Doug Sweeney – for their leadership of the fall stewardship campaign.
- Elaine Thiel and Nancy Vanzandt for their outstanding work with the preschool.

PRESCHOOL PARTICULARS

What a wonderful time of the year!!! We have lots of things going on and want to share them with you!

- December 2: Parent's Night Out
- December 14: Christmas Program at 10:30 AM for morning classes and 1 PM for afternoon classes
- December 21-January 2: No school for holiday break
- January 16: No school, Martin Luther King Holiday
- January 23: No school, LCPS Conference Day



Have a wonderful Christmas and here is to a great new year!!!!!! Thanks to all for your support of our great preschool program!



2011 CROP Walk

Thanks and congratulations to the walkers (Rick Stone, Pat Kropp, Kathy Brown, Kathi Stone, Beth Hood, and Shirley Pearson) representing LPC and to those who sponsored them. It was a beautiful, sunny day on November 6 in Purcellville where about 40 walkers from Catoclin Presbyterian, Leesburg Presbyterian, and St. Andrews Presbyterian gathered to walk about 5.5 miles around Franklin Park. The group of walkers raised close to \$6,000 (\$1,131 from LPC) for Church World Service's hunger programs; of this, about \$1,500 will be given to Loudoun Interfaith Relief.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/27 Worship 8:30 & 11:00	11/28	11/29 Moms Alive! 9:00	11/30 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	1 Circle One 10:00	2 Parents Night Out 6:00	3
4 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Alternative Gift Faire Youth Group 5:30	5	6 Moms Alive! 9:00 Deacons 7:00	7 Bible Study 10:00 Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30 Choir Practice 7:30	8	9 Book Club 9:30	10 Choir Rehearsal 10:00
11 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Christmas Dinner and Program	12 Preschool Board 7:00	13 Moms Alive! 9:00 M&W 7:00 Worship Ctte 7:30	14 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	15	16	17
18 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Finance Ctte 12:15 Youth Group 5:30	19 Monday Morning Stitches 11:00 Christian Ed Ctte 7:30	20 Moms Alive! 9:00 Session 7:30	21 Choir Practice 7:30 Living Nativity 6:30	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service 5:00 Candlelight Service 7:00 Candlelight Communion Service 11:00
25 Christmas Worship 11:00	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE OPEN 9-12 Choir Practice 7:30	29 OFFICE OPEN 9-12	30 OFFICE OPEN 9-12	31

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day Worship 11:00	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 Moms Alive! 9:00 Deacons 7:00	4 Bible Study 10:00 Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30 Choir Practice 7:30	5 Circle One 10:00	6	7
8 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	9 Preschool Board 7:00	10 Moms Alive! 9:00 M&W 7:00 E&M 7:00 Worship Ctte 7:30	11 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	12	13 Book Club 9:30	14
15 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Finance Ctte 12:15 Youth Group 5:30	16 OFFICE CLOSED Monday Morning Stitches 11:00 Christian Ed Ctte 7:30	17 Moms Alive! 9:00 Session 7:30	18 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	19	20	21
22 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	23	24 Moms Alive! 9:00	25 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	26	27	28
29 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	30	31 Moms Alive! 9:00	2/1 Bible Study 10:00 Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30 Choir Practice 7:30	2/2 Circle One 10:00	2/3	2/4



Leesburg Presbyterian Church
Rev. Deborah Parsons
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E-mail: office@lpcva.org
www.lpcva.org

Worship Schedule	
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, Shirley Pearson, and Nancy Vanzandt.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
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