



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 2012

A Note from the Pastor

Pastor and theologian John Westerhoff contends in his book, *Will Our Children Have Faith?*, that the most important factor for children and adults to feel that they belong to the Christian community of faith is to know the important names and events of the community's founding story. And slowly it has dawned on me since moving to Loudoun county, where spring break and Holy Week annually coincide, that it is entirely possible for our children (and even their parents) to never hear, after the Easter story, the most significant chapter of the Jesus story.

Year after year, one can be drenched in the bright colors of Easter joy, without knowing the heart-breaking and love-flowing-down back story of Jesus' week of passion. So, I encourage all of us to make a commitment before we gather for the joyous Easter celebration on April 8th (including the delicious breakfast!) to read of the events that led to the empty tomb. Since we have been working with the Gospel of Mark during Lent, let us read together Mark 14 and 15, the story of the events in Jesus' last week on earth. You may want to enrich your reading by also referring to Eugene Pederson's *THE MESSAGE*. (It's easily accessible online at www.biblegateway.org). Tell the story to your children or read aloud the story from a Children's Bible. But let us take time to read and hear the story—wherever we may be.

May the story of Jesus' last week on earth make us one in Christ's sacrificial love even before we gather together on Easter morning and join our voices in the joyous refrain "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Hallelujah!".

Grace and peace,

Debbie

HOLY WEEK AT LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Maundy Thursday Tennebrae Service

A Service of Shadows

7:30 – 8:30 PM

The Story of the Passion in Mark
and The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Easter Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus

6:30 Sunrise Service – John Sawyer preaching

8:30 Worship

9:15 – 10:00 Deacons' Easter Breakfast!

10: 00 Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 Worship

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

Bible Study

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

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

We will explore lesson seven in our workbook, *Greatly Honored Are the Peacemakers!* Read Matthew 5:9 and James 2:15-16 along with the lesson. We will meet in the library in the church. All women are invited to attend.

Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Circle One

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 April 5 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.

Thursday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.

Bridge Group

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).

Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

Moms Alive!

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. If you have questions you may contact Sarah Jones at MASecretary@lpcva.org or Lauren Vogan at MAPublicRelations@lpcva.org. All moms are welcome!

Tuesdays, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

Monday Morning Stitchers

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)

Monday, April 16, 11:00 a.m.

LPC Book Club

We now meet bimonthly! Our next meeting will be Friday, May 11, at 9:30 in the church lounge. We will discuss *Abide with Me* by Elizabeth Strout. Please join us for our ever-enjoyable book discussion and fellowship. Contact Jennifer Marsh with any questions (jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com or 703-779-0042).

Friday, May 11, 9:30 a.m.

PRESCHOOL PARTICULARS



Hopefully the April Showers WILL bring May Flowers...and not snow!!! Enrollment for Fall is continuing with a lot of the classes full! Survey Monkey has been up online and results will be available this month...we look forward to reviewing comments and using the information and feedback for next year. Pre-K graduation is set for Thursday, May 17th! Summer Camps are being planned for the weeks of May 21-May 25 and May 29-June 1. Enjoy Spring!!



Deacons will be hosting an Easter Brunch at 9:15 a.m. on Easter morning. We'll provide the pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee and tea.

Can you help round out this scrumptious feast by bringing a breakfast casserole, muffins or sweet rolls? If you are able to add to the brunch menu, please drop a note in the offering plate Sunday, or sign up on the boards located outside the sanctuary or in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for helping to make this a wonderful celebration for our church family!

Adult Education 2012

24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

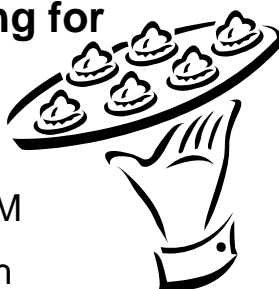
- April 1 The Torture and Humiliation of the King
The Crucifixion
- April 15 Christ the Victor

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

Resuming April 22 through May 20
Topic: Creeds and Confessions
Led by: Dana Huntley

Guess Who's Coming for Appetizers?

YOU!



When: 6:00-8:00 PM

Saturday, April 28th

Where: At a church member's home near you

What: An unforgettable night of fabulous food, stimulating conversation and lots of fun!

Bring your tastiest sweet or savory appetizer to share and enjoy a memorable night of conversation and fellowship. The purpose of the evening is to provide an opportunity for our church community to gather in small groups in members' homes. Whether you are a long time member, new member, or regular attendee, the evening will provide a delightful occasion to make new friends and meet new people. Singles, couples, old and young are encouraged to sign up. There will be a sign-up form in the bulletin beginning on April 8. Childcare will be available at the church. Contact Wynne Rodgers at 703-777-7168 for more information.

News from Malawi

A message from a grateful Malawi student to LPC who paid his University tuition. Rec'd 3/17/2012

Dear Leesburg Presbyterian Church,
I hope that you are all doing very well. Well, I am also doing great. It has been a long time since I wrote you.

Well, yesterday 16 March, 2012 was our farewell party organized by the college. It has been so wonderful stay at University of Livingstonia. I really thank you for the gesture shown to me, may the almighty God bless you abundantly.

yours faithfully,
zondiwe jere

Malawi School Report from University Student, Zondiwe, rec'd 2/24/2012

Dear, Kathy, Bill and Beth Rule, LPC Mission and Witness committee,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I would like to acknowledge the following:

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge you for the good work you are doing to me, am short of words on how best to thank you. .May the Almighty God help me in doing this by Blessing you abundantly. Indeed you have inspired me so much and I shall also do the same in future.

Secondly, Beth and Bill Rule, thank you very much also for the wonderful job you are doing to me. I don't take that for granted. I will be failing if i don't acknowledge my mother "Kathy Brown" and entire Mission and Witness committee for making me get education as its fundamental in making a living.

Furthermore, am glad to inform you that I am almost through with my research now, and after binding it and reviewing it I will mail it so that you actually see what I have done. I was inspired to

Continued on page 4

April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00	2	3 Deacons 7:00	4 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30 Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30	5 Maundy Thursday Circle One 10:00 Tennebrae Service 7:30	6	7
8 Easter Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00	9 OFFICE CLOSED Preschool Board 7:00	10 Moms Alive! 9:00 M&W 7:00 Worship Ctte 7:30	11 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	12	13	14
15 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Finance Ctte 12:15 Youth Group 5:30	16 Monday Morning Stitches 11:00	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 Christian Ed Ctte 7:30	25 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	26	27	28 Guess Who's Coming to Appetizers? 6:00
29 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	30	5/1 Moms Alive! 9:00	5/2 Bible Study 10:00 Choir Practice 7:30	5/2	5/4	5/5

GRACE TO GO MEAL MINISTRY – MAY 6 Volunteers Needed

LPC will be hosting the food preparation at Deli South on Sunday, May 6, 2:30 - 4:30. Three ways to volunteer: sign up on-line at St. James Episcopal website: www.stjamesleesburg.org/graceToGo.asp or on the paper signup sheet on the Mission and Witness bulletin board, or call Kathi Stone (703-777-7194). (Please choose only one method.) No previous experience required. Come and join the fun and fellowship as we prepare meals for 180 local residents in need of assistance.

Special thank you to the January and/or March volunteers: Jeff & Trish Fraker, John & Connie Niccolls, Florence O'Hay, Cameron Spivey, Molly & Olivia Schultz, Dave, Sheri, & Brooke Nelson, Shirley Pearson, Beth Shockley, Maria & Rissa McGill, Kathi Stone, and a few volunteers from St. James: Amanda, Jackie, Kim, and Brenda. We have had a very successful start in this new meals ministry for LPC. Thank you for giving your time and cooking talents to help improve the lives of our neighbors.

One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012

Each year Leesburg Presbyterian Church participates in four PC(USA) special offerings. The first offering in 2012 will be received on Easter Sunday, April 8th.

In 2011 there was an unusually high number of natural disasters leaving many homeless, broken in spirit, and struggling to rebuild their lives. Please take a moment to consider your offering which will be critical in helping many people around the world.



Get Involved Mission Volunteer Opportunity!

The Mission and Witness Committee is looking for a volunteer to organize LPC's involvement with the CROP Hunger Walk to be held on October 28. Also looking for a volunteer to help with the Western Loudoun CROP Hunger Walk coordinating committee; the first of just a few meetings will be May 20. Contact Kathi Stone if you are interested (703-777-7194) in either or both opportunities. Many need our support to help fight world hunger and 25% of the funds raised will go to Interfaith Relief right here in Loudoun County. Get involved and make a difference!

News from Malawi (continued from page 3)

do this research, entitled, "An analysis of the Loss of Language among the Ngoni of Mzimba: a case study of Mzukuzuku and Mzikubola Ngoni" because 'we' the Ngoni have lost our language and we are now considered as Tumbuka by language. So I was investigating why we lost our language to the Tumbuka which is termed as the language of the conquered.

What is more, it is now official that we are leaving this plateau 'Livingstonia' this April 6, 2012. I am not aware where I will be sent and am yet to be communicated. However, there has been chaos on the Campus with the completing class (our class) because of the issue regarding teaching practice allowances. Despite the high fee the institution got from us, it seems they will keep a lot in their account as we will be getting K4000.00 (USD\$24) a week which if I calculate very well get K48,000.00 (USD\$290) in for three months and some weeks in the field, which shows that the remainder is left in the school account. I raised an argument with the Dean of Studies this morning asking if high cost of living in the country has been taken into consideration? This is because, recently our Kwacha has been devalued and is very weak against the dollar and British pound. And things are really expensive out there in the country which shows that we students going to the field will have to face difficulties financially as Malawi Kwacha four thousand is just very minimal to some of us who our parents can't afford any addition towards our stay in the field as prices are really soaring.

Finally, after I finish my education I would want to work with your church particularly the Mission and Witness committee in seeing various projects that you are doing in Malawi, that's what is in my mind now as a way of showing my appreciation to you. Greetings from Mestina (Zondiwe's mother in Embangweni) as she is in school now (getting a teacher's certificate) up to July, 2012 and entire family.

*yours faithfully,
zondiwe jere*



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

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 by emailing office@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, and Jane Wallace.

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

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
207 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #4
Leesburg, VA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

