



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

November 2012

Deepening Our Faith – Widening our Reach Stewardship Sunday is November 11th

Have you ever wondered how Leesburg Presbyterian Church keeps moving forward, year after year, to be a giving presence in our community and the world around? It is because of the support of all you, and your generous sharing of resources to help others.

Have you ever looked at the majestic evergreen next to the sanctuary, or the soaring black walnut trees near the church parking lot, and thought of the model they serve for all we do? On Sundays I often find my eyes drawn to the green outside our windows, and I marvel in the durability and reach of these marvelous beings. A tree is a thing of beauty and strength that gives shelter and nourishment to God's creatures. At LPC, we want to grow like these trees, deepening the roots of our faith with messages that inspire and teachings that resonate, while widening our reach to serve those beyond our doors.

We have such wonderful opportunities here to turn God's love into action. Whether it's seeing kids learn excitedly, listening to great melodies old and new, or sharing in the joy that abounds when someone in need puts a huge smile on their face because of you, our collective efforts as a church do far more than any one of us alone could.

We have exciting things on the horizon. As we envision 2013, we see worship thriving within a caring community, learning opportunities boosted with Godly Play for kids, guest speakers at MANNA dinners, and mission efforts close to home and abroad providing critical aid for those in need. We also have a special goal for next year of finding an associate pastor, to help Pastor Debbie guide all this good work and to provide a heightened focus on fun, inspiring, life-shaping opportunities for our youth.

Just as the trees turning color this time of year grab our attention after the languid summer, we hope for your attention to firm up expected pledge giving for 2013. As we get ready to memorialize each of our commitments with a pledge on Stewardship Sunday, I ask that you prayerfully reflect on how you can be a part of this good work. We've set a modest goal of a 3% increase in pledged giving, but 5% would help tremendously in a quest for an associate pastor. Some of you may even make the decision to be a standard bearer with a 10% increase in giving. Many of us wouldn't think twice about paying 5% more for a cup of coffee at Starbucks or Shoes. Shouldn't we be willing to similarly invest in something that gives back so much more?

If you're like me, balancing demands for time, attention, and money often require a delicate juggling act. We acknowledge that it is hard to do everything. Thank you for any contribution you can make to help in the life of this church – every bit makes a difference. A pledge to LPC presents a rare opportunity to sustain something bigger than ourselves, something that provides shelter and strength close to home while also branching out to serve the greater good. As my dad would say, "Churches don't just help others – they help others while being there for you when you need it." That has stuck with me always.

In the words of Robert Louis Stevenson, "It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit." Deepen your faith. Widen your reach. Be a part of helping this old tree grow.

Faithfully yours,

Pam Poisson, Treasurer, and the
LPC Finance and Stewardship Committee Steve Potter, and Doug Sweeney

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

Circle One

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

A time for informal study and conversation, Circles are a great way to meet other women in the church. Circle One will meet throughout the church school year on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am at LPC.

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Wednesday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.

We will meet in the church library Wednesday, November 7th, at 7:30 p.m. Study Lesson Three, *A Spiritual House and Household Matters*. Read 1 Peter 2:1-10 and 3 John 1-8. Shirley Pearson will be our lesson leader. All Women of the church are invited for socializing and learning.

LPC Book Club

Friday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.

Please join us for our wonderful book discussions on second Fridays, 9:30 in the lounge. Our book for November is *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. All are welcome. For more information contact Jennifer Marsh, 703-779-0042 or jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com.

Monday Morning Stitchers

Monday, November 19, 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)

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. 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.

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).

Volunteer Opportunity - Deliver Food to Loudoun Interfaith Relief

We live in one of the most affluent counties in the country and yet many go hungry. From the Loudoun Interfaith Relief Website: "There are many people in our community who must make choices everyday between having enough to eat and buying the medicine they need or gas for their car to even get to work. Others find they must choose between paying utility bills or grocery bills. In June 2012, 16% of the children attending Loudoun County Public Schools qualified for a free or reduced priced lunch. This is a true indication of the poverty that exists in our community. Each month, there are thousands of people in Loudoun County relying on Loudoun Interfaith Relief for emergency food assistance to put food on the table for their families. For struggling families, hunger is a harsh reality they face every day."

A volunteer(s) is needed to deliver food, collected by LPC, to Loudoun Interfaith Relief as needed, likely once a month. Drop off is near the Leesburg Airport (750 Miller Drive, Suite A-1) between the hours of 9:30 am-4:00 pm Monday - Friday and 9:30 am - 1:00 pm on Saturday. Please contact Kathi Stone (703-777-7194) if you are interested in serving in this way.

The Mission & Witness Committee wishes thank Wynne Rodgers for helping with this important mission activity during the past two years. Many have benefitted from her generosity!

December Newsletter

Please note that the December newsletter will have an early deadline of Monday, November 11, due to the Thanksgiving holiday and the need to get all our Advent and Christmas information to our readers in plenty of time.

Deadline for December Newsletter is November 11

MANNA CONTINUES IN NOVEMBER

Supper 6:00–6:45pm

Program 6:45–7:30pm

Childcare and children's activities available

Our Wednesday night MANNA activities continue weekly through November 14. The Deacons are cooking up delicious meals to feed the body and Pastor Debbie has lined up thought-provoking speakers to feed the spirit. The cost of the dinner this year is \$4.00 for ages 13 and up, \$2.00 for ages 6-12, and children 5 and under eat for free. Family maximum is \$15. No advance sign up needed—just come as you are!

November 7 — Made from scratch quiches and soups

November 14 — Final Celebration and Potluck

Ancient and Contemporary Practices of the Faithful Life

PILGRIMAGE - November 7th

Rev. Ruth Huizenga Everhart, “Worship Leader Specialist” at Western Presbyterian in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of D.C., will preview her new book coming out in November, *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land*. Ruth, a passionate writer and pastor, explores the dimensions of the ancient spiritual practice of pilgrimage that she experienced on her journey to the Holy Land.

Adult Christian Education
Sundays, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

Faith in the Public Square
Continues through November 18

Oct 28 *History of Religion and Politics in America (part 2)* led by Dana Huntley

But was it the intention of our American founding documents to create a secular society? Let's look at how faith has played a changing role in American politics over the last 200 years. How has religion played a role in our elections and our political history? Europeans think we're nuts for considering religion still a factor in our political debates and decisions. Are we?

Nov 4 *Faith and Presidential Politics and the Question of Mormonism* led by Dana Huntley

The big question remains: How should our faith as Christians play a role in our political opinions and electoral decisions? Yes, Gov. Romney is a Mormon. What does that mean, and should that make a difference in how we vote?

Nov 11 & 18 *American Politics and Christian Responses* led by Laura Herring

Is there a need for civility in politics today? Using the *Thoughtful Christian* series as our guide, we will explore this question and its implications. We will discuss what civility is and is not, looking in particular at four virtues of civility that we can apply in our own lives.

There will be no Adult Christian Education class on Sunday, November 28. Join us beginning December 2 for an Advent series.

Thank you for all the get well cards, prayers, flowers, food, and visits. I appreciate them all, particularly the prayers for healing—they have helped considerably.

— Evelyn Rollison

Family Day of Service

Sat. Nov. 3, 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.

Join us to glean turnips at Marker Miller Farm, in Winchester, VA. This will be the 12th annual Community Harvest & Festival to benefit our neighbors in need. Join your fellow LPC members to help make a difference and have fun too! Plan to work from 10AM-12N. Dress for the weather. Adults bring a knife, kids will pull turnips. Plan to stay for the free lunch after the harvest. Note: rain or mud date will be Sat. Nov. 10. This event is sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew, known for gleaning America's fields – feeding America's hungry. Sign up after worship so carpools can be arranged. Contact Kathy Brown, Mission & Witness Committee, 703-777-4656, for more information.

Loudoun Interfaith Relief Needs Food for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and LIF needs your help! Most critically they **need grocery store gift cards** so that families can purchase their Thanksgiving Dinner turkey. Additionally, please donate items such as stuffing, gravy, vegetables, and potatoes. Store cards can be left in the church office or in the offering plate; food can be placed in the box at the foot of the stairs leading to Fellowship Hall.

Holiday Giving Tree

The Community Holiday Coalition will celebrate its 17th year this year. The "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program was established in 1996.

A giving tree with "ornaments" will be set up in the back of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 11th, to support the Community Holiday Coalition's store where clients select presents for their families. Choose an ornament with a description of a child, teen or senior and buy an age appropriate gift and place it unwrapped under the tree by December 5th. 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 Suggestions:

Clothing: Complete outfits for infants through teens.

Toys: New toys of all kinds and books for infants through teens.

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

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

Gift Certificates: Varied certificates (for teenage girls in particular). Certificates in small amounts such as \$10 are easier to distribute fairly.

2012 Alternative Giving Christmas Fair December 2 - 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. This year we have selected one local offering (Grace-to-Go feeding ministry), one international offering (Heifer International), and because LPC will not be coordinating a mission trip for the congregation in 2013, we shall provide a wonderful opportunity to support specific mission trips by some of our fellow Presbyterian Churches in the National Capital Area. And you are invited to join them!

A nice variety of fairly-traded and sustainably-grown coffee, tea, chocolate, and other goodies from SERRV will also be available for purchase.

We hope you will enjoy supporting these worthwhile programs and your family and friends will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Haven't been to an alternative fair before? It's simple! Come to the Fellowship Hall on December 2, visit the display tables, talk to representatives about the organizations you want to support, then 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.

Welcome New Members



Meredith Moore. Meredith was born in Chattanooga and grew up in Memphis, TN. After college she entered the seminary, earned her Master of Divinity and did campus ministry in South Carolina. Later, she entered graduate school at Vanderbilt, did another stint of campus ministry at the University of Mary Washington. While there, she did a sabbatical at Oxford. After receiving her doctorate in counseling at the University of Virginia, she was an associate pastor and did pastoral counseling. Meredith is now retired and has lived in Round Hill for 12 years.

Todd & Susan Joyce. Susan grew up in Richmond and from the 5th grade so did Todd. They met in high school. They have 3 children. Their daughter, Ellie, is 11 and loves acting and dancing. Charlie, age 9, loves Legos and all sports. Henry, age 6, loves running and reading. All three children play lacrosse, golf, and piano. Todd is president of The Joyce Agency, Inc., a manufacturer's representative agency in the plumbing and HVAC supply industry. Susan is a stay-at-home mother and "professional volunteer." They had been searching for a traditional and friendly church which they found at LPC.



Jane Baird. Jane grew up in Lebanon, OH where her father was a Presbyterian minister. She came to Waynesboro, VA to an all girls' school

for her high school years, then returned to OH to go to college. After college, she and her husband moved to Maine to teach. It was in Augusta, ME where Kim was born. Jane is the mother of Kim Vigil and grandmother to Taylor and Bailey. Jane has recently moved to Leesburg to be closer to her only child and her family. Jane loves the close-knit family atmosphere she feels at LPC and the care Kim has received from her church family. It has reminded her of her father's church.

Guess Who's Coming for Appetizers?

YOU!

When: 6:00-8:00 PM

Saturday, November 10th

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 is a sign-up form in the bulletin. Childcare will be available at the church from 5:30—8:30. Contact Wynne Rodgers at 703-777-7168 for more information.

News from the Session

Current members of the Session are Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Trish Fraker, Frank Gasperini, Tom Gurney, Randy Jackson, Keith Markel, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, and Doug Sweeney. Rev. Debbie Parsons serves as Moderator and Jim Barnes serves as Clerk.

Among recent actions of the Session:

- Received into membership Jane Baird by Reaffirmation of Faith; Claiborne Callahan and Scott Moore by Letter of Transfer from First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Ala.; Meredith Moore by Letter of Transfer from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Purcellville, Va.; and Susan and Todd Joyce by Letter of Transfer from Brambleton Presbyterian Church, Brambleton, Va.
- Authorized the pre-purchase of 225 new hymnals, with cranberry color covers, and the "Presbyterian Hymnal" labeling option, using trust funds to pay for the hymnals. The hymnals are currently in production and will be delivered next year.
- Voted to seek permission from the Presbytery to begin the process of seeking and calling an Associate Pastor of Christian Formation for LPC.

The Session has recently offered commendations for the following people:

- Jeff and Trish Fraker for painting one of the church school rooms; and
- The Deacons, Holly Rhodes, Rev. Debbie Parsons, Julie Koochagian and everyone else who helped make the church service in which Aibhilin Folk was baptized such a wonderful, joyful event.

Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee, along with Pastor Debbie, has planned an exciting schedule of services for the rest of the year including:

- Reformation Sunday on October 28, where we celebrate the history of the Reformation featuring a "Beadle" in full Scots Presbyterian formal-wear to "process the Bible" at both services. For those who own a kilt, it will be an appropriate opportunity to wear it to church that day.
- All Saints Day, November 4, where we remember those who have left us to be with God.
- Advent begins Sunday December 2 and volunteers will be needed to help decorate the sanctuary (probably late the week of December 10) and to participate in the worship life of the church throughout Advent and the Christmas season. Watch the bulletins for opportunities to participate.

Preschool Particulars for October

Fall is here and so is the great Fall weather!!

October was great...finally great weather for the Great Country Farms field trip!!! Thanks to all who participated and helped in so many ways!!! Our wonderful Thanksgiving Feast and Stocking Stuffer Event will be held Thursday, November 15 at 10 and 1. The stockings go to the Loudoun County Coalition to be delivered to many needy families over the holidays! A wonderful way to get children learning about giving to others! Come join us....share fellowship and thankfulness!



November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10/28 REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 CROP Walk Youth Group 5:30	10/29	10/30 Moms Alive! 9:00	10/31 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	1 Circle One 10:00	2	3 Community Service Day 9:00
4 ALL SAINTS DAY Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45	5 Directory Photos 3–9 pm	6 Deacons 7:00	7 Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 MANNA 6:00 Choir 7:30	8	9 Book Club 9:30	10 Guess Who's Coming to Appetizers? 6:00
11 COMMITMENT SUNDAY Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	12 Mission & Witness 7:00 Preschool Board 7:00	13 Moms Alive! 9:00 E & M Ctte 7:00 Worship Ctte 7:30	14 Bible Study 10:00 MANNA 6:00 Choir 7:30	15	16	17
18 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	19 Monday Morning Stitchers 11:00	20 Moms Alive! 9:00 Session 7:30 Choir 7:30 (tentative)	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	26	27 Moms Alive! 9:00 Christian Ed Ctte 7:30	28 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	29	30	12/1



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Rev. Deborah Parsons
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Phone: 703-777-4163
E-mail: office@lpcva.org
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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, Trish Fraker, Frank Gasperini, Tom Gurney, Randy Jackson, Keith Markel, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, and Doug Sweeney.

DEACONS: Glenna Bingham, Tom Chase, Sandy Gasperini, Kim Goldstein, Carla Holland, Babe McGuire, Kristen Moats, Connie Niccolls, Florence O'Hey, Sharon Schmidt, Nancy Vanzandt, and Dennis Welsh.

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