



# 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)

February 2013

## A Note from the Pastor—A New Look for Sunday Fellowship

One of the key elements in Leesburg Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement is hospitality. Hospitality is becoming a place and a people where all feel the gracious welcome of Christ into the family of faith. Hospitality is creating opportunities where everyone, whether brand new visitor or long term member, can feel more deeply connected to each other and to God. Hospitality is creating a community where "everyone knows my name" or at least wants to!

The Board of Deacons has oversight of our ministry of hospitality by planning, providing and hosting opportunities for our community to gather and enjoy food and fellowship, conversation and laughter. Specifically they plan and implement a minimum of five church-wide gatherings, the fall mid-week MANNA supper/study series, and fellowship every Sunday after both services. The purpose of all these events is to foster a sense of joy and belonging among adults, youth, and children who come here, not just from every corner of Loudoun County, but from every corner of the United States!

The Deacons take their ministry of hospitality very seriously and are continually evaluating what changes need to be made in order to be more joyful servants of a more effective hospitality ministry. In their evaluation of Sunday morning fellowship, they have determined that the following change needs to be made.

Starting February 17, fellowship will begin after the early service and continue until shortly before the 11:00 worship service. Because we have designated an upstairs classroom for adult studies, the Fellowship Hall is now available for fellowship from 9:30 until 11:00. Folks are encouraged to attend an adult studies class or they can feel free to enjoy fellowship with one another in Fellowship Hall. Folks who attend the second service are encouraged to come early and have a cup of coffee before the beginning of 11:00 worship. We feel that bridging the two services through a common fellowship time helps our members connect and feel the sense of relationship that binds us to this wonderful church family. There will not be upstairs fellowship after the 11:00 service except on the second Sunday of the month, when we join together for Second Sunday Feast.

In this new approach, we will highlight our Second Sunday Feast, with its more substantial snack table provided by different groups within the church, as those times of monthly fellowship where we can share in each others lives and be intentional about meeting those folks with whom we are not yet acquainted. The Second Sunday Feasts will continue to be held the second Sunday of the month *after* both worship services. And during the summer months, we will have fellowship on the lawn after the single 10:00 a.m. worship service.

While the Deacons-sponsored church-wide events and Sunday fellowship are absolutely critical for the congregation to grow more deeply connected, we all have a responsibility to be involved in hospitality. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know. They may or may not be a church member. It doesn't matter – learn the name of someone new. Also, take time to introduce a newcomer to someone else. And be intentional about inviting a visitor or new member to join you to go upstairs for Second Sunday Feast. Be fearless in greeting one another and learning another person's name. In doing so, we are extending nothing less than the friendship of Jesus. And that's a big deal.

Grace and peace,

Debbie



## Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

### Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

**Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.**

Our lesson this month is *The Ties that Bind*, lesson five in your study book. Please read 1 Peter chapter 3. Betty Lowenbach will lead this lesson. All women are invited to attend. Just show up. We would love to have you join us.

### Circle One

**Thursday, February 7, 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 meets throughout the school year on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am at LPC.

### LPC Book Club

**Friday, February 8, 9:30 a.m.**

Please join us for our wonderful book discussions on second Fridays, 9:30 in the lounge. All are welcome. For more information contact Jennifer Marsh, 703-779-0042 or jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com.

February: *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott

### Moms Alive!

**Tuesday, February 12 9:00—11:00 a.m.**

Beginning in 2013, LPC's moms group, *Moms Alive!*, for mothers with children of all ages, will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. It will continue to be 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church with childcare provided. 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 Kim Vigil at k97vigil@yahoo.com.

### Monday Morning Stitchers

**Monday, February 18, 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)

### 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).

### 4th Annual SWEET SOMETHING Dessert Silent Auction Sunday, February 10



This year's dessert silent auction will be held after both worship services on Sunday, February 10 to raise funds for Youth Ministry and Summer trips. There will be an array of delicious desserts from pies and cakes to cookies and dessert bars just in time to give to a friend, a teacher, a co-worker, a neighbor or a spouse on Valentine's Day!

Last year we raised over \$3,700; Can we do it again?!? In order to do this we need two things:

- (1) Folks to bake and donate fabulously yummy desserts
- (2) Folks to bid on these fabulously yummy desserts

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to donate a dessert. The youth really appreciate the wonderful support of their church family for their summer ministry trips!

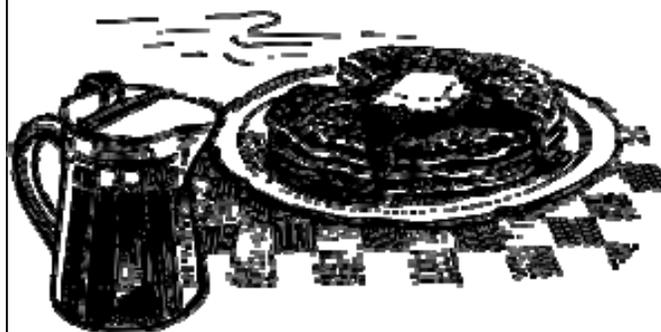
**Join us to kick off the Lent Season.**

**Deacons are hosting a Pancake Supper**

**Wednesday, February 13th**

**6:00 p.m.—6:45 p.m.**

**Ash Wednesday Service follows at 6:45**



Deadline for March Newsletter is February 18th.

## The Lenten Season Begins . . .

### February 13 – Ash Wednesday

6:00 – 6:45 Pancake Supper

6:45 – 7:20 Service of Prayer, Song, & Ashes

FELLOWSHIP HALL

And Continues . . .

### with Lenten Sermon Series on THE LORD’S PRAYER

Feb 17 – “Lord, Teach us To Pray”

Feb. 24 – “Hallowed Be Thy Name”

March 3 – “Thy Will Be Done”

March 10 – “Daily Bread”

March 17 – “Debts, Trespasses, Sins”

March 24 – “Deliver Us From Evil”

March 31 – “The Add On”

And is explored more deeply . . .

### in a MID-WEEK LENTEN GROUP

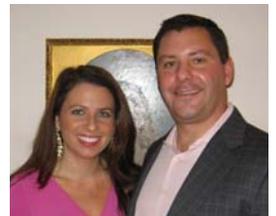
Wednesdays 10:00 – 11: 15 am – Church Parlor.

Additionally, members of Leesburg Presbyterian have been invited to join our next door neighbor, **Leesburg United Methodist Church for a mid-week service and lunch.** Pastor Debbie will be leading worship on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The season of Lent is the 40 day period (not counting Sundays) before Easter when Christians seek to intentionally examine their lives in the light of Christ’s teachings, death and resurrection. Historically, early Christians were baptized at Easter and Lent became that time of preparation to become part of Christ’s Body, the Church. The season has evolved into a period where all followers of Christ are invited to enter into a time of intentional practices of study, of prayer, of worship, of reflection. May this Lenten Season be a rich time of spiritual reflection and growth for all of us.

## Welcome New Members!

**Christian & Laura Hoff.** Christian and Laura moved to Leesburg in January 2012. Laura is originally from Rockville, MD and Christian grew up in Fairfax, VA. Christian works for Booz Allen Hamilton and Laura is an artist. Laura studied art at Jacksonville University and Christian attended the Virginia Military Institute. They are expecting their first child in May.



**Nicole Lee.** Nicole is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. She has lived in VA for seven years and moved to Leesburg one year ago. She has a 4 year old son, Seamus. She and her finance, Harrison Montgomery will be married in the church in 2013.

**Joseph & Karen Vasile.** Joseph & Karen both grew up in Bergen County, NJ. Shortly after meeting each other, Joe entered the US Navy and began flight training in Pensacola, FL. They married in 1991 and moved to San Diego, CA. Joe’s job as a military pilot took him all over the world and kept them moving every 2-3 years. They have lived in VA, FL, CA, and DC. Karen kept busy with school events and raising their two children, Sarah, 16, and James, 14, who attend Woodgrove High School in Purcellville. After serving 22 years in the military, Joe retired and the family moved to Waterford. On their first visit to LPC, they knew this was the church for them because it reminded Karen of the church she grew up in. They thank everyone for making them feel so welcome and comfortable and look forward to becoming more active in the church.



## 2012 Alternative Giving Christmas Fair A Joyful Response from LPC

The Mission & Witness Committee wishes to thank the members of the congregation who supported several special projects and organizations, for a total of \$4,710 in alternative gifts for friends and family, in addition to supporting small farmers around the world. Because of your extraordinary generosity during the holiday season, you have touched many people's lives locally, nationally, and internationally with your donations.

The purpose of the Fair was, in part, to raise awareness of and provide opportunities to join other National Capital Presbyterian churches' 2013 international missions activities and trips: **United Orphanage and Academy in Kenya** with Old Presbyterian Meeting House and Westminster Presbyterian (\$445); **Orphans & Vulnerable Children Support through Chicken Project in Njoro, Kenya** with New York Avenue Presbyterian (\$540); **Village Partnership for Children's/Orphans Health Clinic, Preschool, Technical School in Kibwezi, Kenya** with Burke Presbyterian (\$355); and the **First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, and the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba** with New York Avenue Presbyterian (\$350). Our guests from these churches enjoyed talking to our members and visitors about their projects (and all are particularly overjoyed because the Mission and Witness Committee is pleased to announce and sponsor Rev. Parson's trip to Cuba in April, 2013!).

Other alternative gift recipients were the **Grace to Go Meal Ministry** (\$1,680) and **Heifer International** (\$1,340). A few folks even took advantage of this venue to donate to our on-going work in Malawi (\$320)!

We also thank you for your generosity by purchasing coffee, tea, chocolate, and other delicious items from **SERRV**, who supports fairly-traded and sustainably-grown products by small farmers.

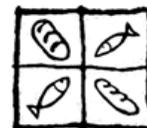
And a special thank you to LPC member Jackie Mowbray who donated beautiful handmade Moravian Star ornaments that were given to customers. A joyful response was given indeed!

### Grace to Go Mission

Every other month LPC leads the Grace to Go Mission at Deli South Restaurant. LPC volunteers meet to prepare a hot meal which is distributed to families in our community. This mission is coordinated by St. James Episcopal Church and supported by other organizations in Leesburg and Ashburn. Our January G2G volunteers prepared 186 chicken dinners on Sunday afternoon, January 6. Thank you to LPC volunteers Shirley Pearson, Diane DuCharm, Dave and Brooke Nelson, Nancy Blaine, Linda Gibson, Carol Williams, Molly Schultz, Helen Taylor, Connie and John Niccolls, Jon Gayek, Anne and Beth Gurney and Trish and Jeff Fraker. LPC will be cooking again on Sunday, March 3 at Deli South from 1:30-3:30. Volunteers may sign up on the Bulletin board in the hallway by the entrance to the church or contact the Frakers at (703) 771-8049 or by email at fraker1@verizon.net.

### Fishes and Loaves for Interfaith Relief Communion Sunday

On Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we resumed the Fishes and Loaves Offering. Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, as we receive our Lord's Supper, we can place our food offering in special baskets. In this way, Loudoun Interfaith Relief will have its shelves stocked with the critically needed food to assist local families in need. The items need to be non-perishable and hearty/healthy, but some snack items are also appreciated.



Recently, Interfaith Relief has acquired the ability to refrigerate some items, and they now accept monetary donations in order to purchase meats, mild, etc.

Your food offering is especially appreciated, feeding whole families, and your feedback is appreciated as well. Thank you for your offerings.

**The next Fishes and Loaves Offering will be on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Deadline for March Newsletter is February 18th.

## News from Malawi

December 31, 2012

Happy New Year to our Friends & Partners in Christ Jesus,

*It is past midnight and I am yearning to know how you have entered 2013. Here in Southern Africa and Malawi we have entered it while praising God. We are in a night of prayer to God. I am so optimistic that 2013 is going to usher in a new way of doing things as the journey continues. We look forward to strengthening our partnership and cooperation with you. We thank God for His healing mercies and His favour. The problems and challenges we encountered in 2012 were a test of our faith, love, and strength unto God the Almighty.*

*May you please pray for us your friends as Malawi and Tanzania are engaged in a very serious border dispute over the Northern part of Lake Malawi which all along was under Malawi, but now Tanzania is claiming half of it to be in its territory. ....in Africa issues of borders are very serious issues. We still have faith in God to heal this misunderstanding.*

Leman Kayira, Loudon Projects Officer

### Heartfelt thanks from a Malawi Student in Teachers College to LPC's Congregation

The Mission & Witness committee recently received a note of introduction and thanks from Malawi from a young man we were asked to help educate. The Central African Presbytery has a Loudon Projects office that oversees work projects sponsored by US churches and as such inspects the improvements made at Luvwere, the remote mountain community that we have supported since 2007. In 2012 we were asked by Mr. Leman Kayira, the Loudon Projects Manager at Embangweni, to consider helping another needy student who wanted to attend the Loudon Teachers Training College. Due to the generosity of individuals who make discretionary donations for Malawi and the entire congregation who pledge and support LPC's budget, we have been able to assist this young man in 2012 and will continue in 2013.

27 December 2012

Dear Sponsor Leesburg Presbyterian Church,

*Thank you very much for sponsoring me through Loudon Projects. My name is Kondwani Bosco and I am a student at Loudon Teachers Training College. I am thanking you because of sponsoring me by paying my school fees for the past semesters ... Without your assistance in providing funds, I would not have been at school.*

*I am pleased to inform you that I have successfully passed the Malawi National Examinations ... I am now doing teaching practical for 3 semesters from September 2012 to August 2013. ... My ambition is to graduate into a qualified primary school teacher and thereafter secure a place at one of the Universities to study for a Bachelor degree in Education. Thank you very much my sponsor for your continued sponsorship. Christmas and New Year greetings to you all.*

Kondwani Bosco - Student



## 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 Persons serves as Moderator and Jim Barnes serves as Clerk.

Among recent actions of the Session:

- Received into membership Nicole Lee; Christian and Laura Hoff; and Joseph, Karen, Sarah and James Vasile by Reaffirmation of Faith; and Vicki Jackson by Letter of Transfer from Mildred Presbyterian Church in Sharps, Va.
- Authorized funds for a Christmas lunch to thank the church staff.
- Received a report from the accounting firm of Bullock & Associates on the annual full financial review of books and records for 2011; the report found the financial records to be in order, with only a few minor administrative exceptions noted;
- Extended the current agreement with Eric Nanz to lead music during worship one Sunday a month through March 2013, pending further review during the budget discussions;
- Met with Steve Wales, elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon, who will serve as liaison to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee from the presbytery's Committee on Ministry; and
- Accepted the 2013 budget as proposed by the Stewardship and Finance Committee, and recommended it for approval by the congregation.

The Session has recently offered commendations for the following people:

- Laura Herring for her excellent job leading the adult Sunday School class on faith in the public square;
- Sharon Brown for her outstanding leadership of the adult Sunday School program over the last four years;
- Ben Franklin for stepping in and serving as liturgist on short notice;
- Adam Adcock for organizing the CROP Walk and volunteering to deliver food to Interfaith Relief;
- Julie Koochagian for using her design skills to produce attractive, professional materials for this year's stewardship campaign;
- Juli Barnes for her hard work coordinating the Living Nativity, which was very successful this year;
- Becky Sweet and everyone who contributed to the fabulous Christmas Musical;
- Sofia Spivey for creating the wonderful backdrop that was used in the Christmas musical and Living Nativity;
- Spencer Wilcox for making the beautiful wreath and displaying it on the front of the church;
- The Advent Band, featuring Rick Stone, Garret Goldstein, Jim Johnson and Eric Nanz, for providing music for the December 16 worship services; and
- Tom Chase and Jane Sawyer for volunteering to teach English as a Second Language classes through the program offered by Leesburg United Methodist Church.

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## PRESCHOOL PARTICULARS FOR FEBRUARY

Calling all parents of preschool children ... Registration for our FABULOUS Leesburg Presbyterian Church Preschool begins on February 4<sup>th</sup> and continues until February 14<sup>th</sup> (for returning students and alumni) and February 21<sup>st</sup> (for new students)! Just call our Director, Elaine Thiel, to set up a time to tour so you can see for yourself the great learning and caring atmosphere we have. 703-771-1461. Happy Valentine's Day to our wonderful staff, parents, and students!!!



**February 2013**

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                             | Wednesday  | Thursday                     | Friday                     | Saturday   |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>1/27</b><br>Worship 8:30 & 11:00<br>Church School 9:45<br>Youth Group 5:30                     | <b>1/28</b>  | <b>1/29</b>                         | <b>1/30</b><br>Bible Study 10:00<br>Choir Practice 7:30  | <b>1/31</b>                  | <b>1</b>                   | <b>2</b>   |
| <b>3</b><br>Worship 8:30 & 11:00<br>Church School 9:45<br>Believing and Belonging<br>12:00        | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>Deacons 7:00            | <b>6</b><br>Bible Study 10:00<br>Choir Practice 7:30<br>Emma Clemens/Ruth<br>Circles 7:30                  | <b>7</b><br>Circle One 10:00 | <b>8</b><br>Book Club 9:30 | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>10</b><br>Worship 8:30 & 11:00<br>Church School 9:45<br>Dessert Silent Auction<br>9:45 & 12:00 | <b>11</b><br>Preschool Board 7:00<br>M&W Ctte 7:00 | <b>12</b><br>Moms Alive! 9:00       | <b>13 ASH WEDNESDAY</b><br>Bible Study 10:00<br>Pancake Supper 6:00<br>Worship 6:45<br>Choir Practice 7:30 | <b>14</b>                    | <b>15</b>                  | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>17</b><br>Worship 8:30 & 11:00<br>Church School 9:45<br>Finance Ctte<br>Youth Group 5:30       | <b>18</b><br>Monday Morning<br>Stitchers 11:00     | <b>19</b><br>Session 7:30           | <b>20</b><br>Bible Study 10:00<br>Choir Practice 7:30  | <b>21</b>                    | <b>22</b>                  | <b>23</b>  |
| <b>24</b><br>Worship 8:30 & 11:00<br>Church School 9:45   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br>Christian Ed Ctte 7:30 | <b>27</b><br>Bible Study 10:00<br>Choir Practice 7:30  | <b>28</b>                    | <b>3/1</b>                 | <b>3/2</b> |



Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
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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](mailto: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.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
207 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

