



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/May 2013

Notes from the Pastor

Next week, a life-long dream is coming true for me— I'm going to Cuba! My attraction to Cuba may have begun with Ricky Ricardo and the ruffled shirts and bongo drums of his band but it grew into a deep fascination as I grew up with the heated politics surrounding Cuba—the Bay of Pigs Invasion, romanticized accounts of the revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power, the reports of a state always on the verge of failing but hasn't yet, the horror stories of the repression of the Cuban people within the communist system, the stories that have praised the health care and educational system in Cuba as among the fairest and best in all of Latin America.

In addition to all this, I've known many, many Cuban-American Presbyterians who had such a rich Presbyterian upbringing in Cuba, and who, in spite of Castro and communism, still love and admire their homeland. And last, I love to speak Spanish whenever I can, though I am a bit rusty with my language skills.

I see this week as a "scouting trip" where I can see what possibilities there might be for a partnership to be developed between Leesburg Presbyterian and our Cuban sisters and brothers in Christ. The Mission Witness Committee shares this interest and has generously helped to fund my trip.

Early on April 15, I will fly from Dulles to Miami where I will meet up with 10 other pilgrims from two D.C. churches, Church of the Pilgrims, and New York Ave Presbyterian Church, the trip's sponsor. We will take a chartered jet for the quick flight to Havana and will be greeted by folks from First Presbyterian Church, Havana, our group's host organization for the week.

I thank you for your prayers that a good and holy thing can begin with this trip!

Below are snippets of our written "Statement of Purpose."

Que Dios los bendiga!

Debbie

"Statement of Purpose"

- The purpose of our trip is to strengthen, deepen, and expand the relationship, ties, and partnership of NYAPC and First Havana. We want to renew acquaintances, deepen knowledge of one another, expand relationships into new areas, learn about the always-changing but always-present challenges that both our churches face in their urban ministries. We want to assure and acknowledge that we support each other in prayer, friendship, and actions.
- We especially seek to begin a "Phase II" of our partnership by drawing our Young Adults together in more deliberate and intentional activities in order to promote and enhance understanding and reconciliation among a new generation of Cubans and Americans. We therefore would be pleased to meet with the three young women who hoped to visit NYAPC but were denied visas. We would like to meet with as many First Havana Young Adults as possible, and we wish to attend the "Uno Mas Para Cristo" service if possible.
- We want to learn how the church has stayed alive during difficult times; how the church has affected people personally and in relationships; how the environment for church attendance and expansion is changing. Everyone wants to learn more about how the church is adapting to changes in Cuban society and how it might be effecting such change.
- We wish to learn about the mission and ministries of First Havana, including programs for the congregation and new initiatives. These might include the young adults' group and its initiative with the Elderly at Christmas, the School for the Elderly, the baseball teams, the library and its classes. We would enjoy doing a Bible study with the church's weekly Bible study group. We would enjoy meeting with Presbyterian Women to discuss their activities, programs, and outreach initiatives, and with Presbyterian men, if a new group has been formed, to discuss their activities.
- In our brief time with our brothers and sisters at First Havana, we wish to meet new friends, reconnect with old friends, share in worship and Christ's love together, and to confirm the bonds and ties that we have with each other in our partnership together in the Presbyterian Church.

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Wednesday, May 1st, 7:30 p.m.

The circles will meet in May in the church library at 7:30 p.m. We will combine two lessons for our May meeting to make up for our march meeting which we missed. For our May meeting read 1 John 2:1-15, 29-3:10 and 5:1-21 for our lesson on The Children. Also, read 1 John 2; 2 Peter 2-3 and Jude 1-16 for our lesson on The Bad Seeds. All women of the church are invited to attend. Contact Shirley Pearson for more information at 703-777-7425.

Circle One

Thursday, May 2, 10:30 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. In May, we will move our meeting upstairs and join Presbyterian women's groups from our western Loudoun sister churches for the Tri-Church Presbyterian Women's Luncheon at 10:30 in fellowship hall.

LPC Book Club

Friday, April 12, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 10, 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.

April: *Anthem* by Ayn Rand

May: *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey

June: *The Stockholm Octavo* by Karen Engelmann

Moms Alive!

Tuesday, May 14, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

LPC's moms group, *Moms Alive!*, for mothers with children of all ages, meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 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, April 15, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, May 20, 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. There will be no bible study during the month of April, but we will resume in May until the end of the school year.

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).

Tri-Church Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

Thursday, May 2, 10:30 a.m.

Several years ago the Presbyterian women's groups in western Loudoun began meeting annually for fellowship, lunch, and a program. This year's gathering will be co-hosted by the women of St. Andrew and Leesburg Presbyterian churches. We will meet at Leesburg Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 2nd at 10:30 am. All women of the church are invited to join us for this time of interaction and reflection.

Children's Church School

Our children's church school has enjoyed a very successful year of learning, fellowship and fun. As the church school year draws to a close, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all our wonderful teachers, who gave of their time, talents, and love for children, to help our children grow in their Christian formation:

Pre - K class

Nicole Lutz
Suzy Masini
Lisa Weikel

K - 2 class

Angela Helge
Kim Hovda
Stacie Markel
Holly Rhodes

3 - 5 class

Juli Barnes
Heidi Renner

The church school year will end with a spirit-filled celebration for all children on May 19, Pentecost Sunday.

Thinking About Dying, Grief, and the Funeral Sundays, 9:45 am

Someone wrote "We are alive, therefore we will die. This is the simplest, most obvious truth of our existence, and yet a truth very few of us have really come to terms with." This six weeks class provides participants with beginning steps in "coming to terms with" the spiritual, medical, and legal issues surrounding death and dying. We will also spend one session on the Christian funeral and participants will receive a work-sheet to help them think about and even prepare for their own funeral, as a service of worship, remembrance and hope!

The class will be led by our pastor, Rev. Debbie Parsons; LPC church member and General Manager of Capital Caring, Linda Rawlett, R.N.; and Jamie Losikoff Kent, Grief and Bereavement Counselor.

April 7 - *Death, the Christian Perspective*, Debbie Parsons

April 14th - *Advanced Directives and Options for Care When Facing a Life Limiting Illness*, Linda Rawlett and Jamie Losikoff Kent.

April 21 - *Grief and Loss*, Jamie Losikoff Kent and Linda Rawlett

April 28th - *The Christian Funeral - Preparing for our own!*, Debbie Parsons

May 5th - *Sharing Reflections Funeral Notes!*, Debbie Parsons

Save the Date

Sunday, April 14
Youth Sunday

Saturday, May 4
Guess Who's Coming to Appetizers?

Sunday, May 5
Ordination of Officers

Saturday, May 18
**Community Service Family Day
at Real Food Farm, Baltimore**

Sunday, May 19
**Pentecost Sunday
Children's Church School Celebration**

Sunday, June 9
**Begin summer worship schedule
All Church Picnic**

Guess Who's Coming for Appetizers?

YOU!

When: 6:00-8:00 PM

Saturday, May 4

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 an 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 and your host will call to invite you the week of the event. Childcare will be available at the church from 5:30-8:30. The cost is \$5/child with a cap of \$10/family paid directly to the caregiver. Contact Wynne Rodgers at 703-777-7168 for more information.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church and Harper Park Middle School partner to support Loudoun County Backpack Buddies

Did you know that in Loudoun County alone, there are approximately 11,330 children that are food insecure? Food insecure is "the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food." One out of every six Loudoun County school children qualifies for the free or reduced lunch program. What happens when these children go home for the weekend?

HUNGER doesn't take the weekend off! Backpack Buddies (BPB) is a program model created by Feeding America to provide food for the weekend to school children who are in need. Leesburg Presbyterian Church is partnering with Harper Park Middle School to support their program. Harper Park is currently providing 20 backpacks each week with a cost of \$8 to \$10 each. Thanks to the generosity of the LPC congregation, The Mission and Witness committee has pledged to provide \$2,000 to help support this program. This is a great start but Harper Park Middle School needs more donations to continue this program through the school year.

This program is making such a positive impact on these children by helping remove one large worry from their lives. 100% of all monetary donations goes directly towards filling the weekly food bags for these students. If you would like to contribute to this program, you can make your donations payable to LPC and note "Backpack Buddies" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for supporting this deserving program to help fight hunger in Loudoun County!

Fishes and Loaves Offering

The next "Fishes and Loaves" offering will occur on Sunday, May 5th. There has been a wonderful response from our congregation in helping INTERFAITH RELIEF in their mission to provide food for the many families in Loudoun who otherwise may go hungry.

As we are fed at the communion table of our Lord, let us contribute as we are able to get food on the tables of those in need for some help.

Love Your Neighbor, Feed Your Neighbor

"The Love Your Neighbor, Feed Your Neighbor" is a multi-faith community-wide effort to raise awareness and collect much needed food for local food pantries and programs (such as backpack buddies) in Loudoun County. Last year, the community/area churches were able to collect and donate more than 55,000 lbs. of food and raise more than \$11,000 in donations.

Community Service Family Day Real Food Farm, Baltimore Sat. May 18, 9AM-12Noon

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, May 18 from 9AM-12Noon at Real Food Farm, Historic Lake Clifton High School Campus, Baltimore. Volunteers who wish to carpool/caravan will meet at LPC at 7 AM for a 7:15 departure.

Brad will need carpentry help on various projects and other work 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 your lunch and some food to share, your 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.

Look for the sign up Poster in Fellowship Hall or Contact Kathy Brown, 703-777-4656, kbrown@lpcva.org

Grace to Go

Thirteen LPC members gathered Sunday, March 3 at Deli South to participate in our Grace to Go mission. Grace to Go prepares 150 - 180 individual meals each Sunday at Deli South from 1:30 - 3:30. Each meal cost approximately \$2.25 and consists of a chicken breast, potatoes, and vegetables. Meals are handed out in the St. James parking lot on Monday afternoon to anyone who needs a meal, no questions asked.

Each Sunday afternoon volunteers gather from area churches, and community groups to cook the meals. Through the Mission and Witness Committee LPC has committed to prepare and pay for the meals the first Sunday every other month. Thank you to our LPC March volunteers, Kim, Bailey and Taylor Vigil, Diane DuCharm, Shirley Pearson, Connie and John Niccols, Florence O'Hey, Nancy Blaine, Linda and Don Gibson, and Trish and Jeff Fraker.

Our next volunteer opportunity will be Sunday, May 5 from 1:30---3:30. Volunteers may sign up on the Mission and Witness Bulletin Board in the church hallway or contact the Frakers at fraker1@verizon.net.

Deadline for Summer Newsletter is May 20.

SAVE THE DATE!

July 14 - 18, 2013

Sunday through Thursday in the evening

Watch the bulletin, weekly e-letter, and monthly newsletter for details and registration 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:

- Elected Elder Doug Sweeney to serve as Church Treasurer for 2013; and
- Voted to allocate \$60,000 in surplus funds from 2012 toward the new associate pastor position (over multiple years), and \$12,000 to the general reserve fund; and to allocate \$1,000 in undesignated funds for 2013 toward the youth ministry, and \$2,250 toward guest musicians, including Eric Nanz.

The Session has recently offered commendations for the following people:

- Richard Koochagian for his hard work and expertise in replacing the water heater;
- Holly Rhodes for her leadership of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee; and
- Nicole Morgenthau, Carmen Garcia and Wynne Rodgers for contributing their musical gifts to enhance Sunday worship.



The Endowment Committee will be offering scholarships to college students for the 2013-2014 school year. Monies for these scholarships are made available through church trusts. Applications will be available on June 15th. They can be picked up in the church office or online and must be returned no later than August 1st. See a member of the Endowment Committee should you have any questions.

Preschool Particulars for April/May

Spring is really going to happen ...“weather” or not we are ready!!! Lots going on at our wonderful Preschool!!! May 2 is field trip day, always fun for all!!! May 8th is the Spring Program...so precious!!! May 15 is the last day for Young 2’s and AM 3’s (already????) with May 16 as Graduation and last day for 2 ½’s and PM 3’s!!! Then the LPCP Camps begin....May 20-24 and May 28-31!!! Thanks to all staff members, parents, Board, and of course our students for a great year!!!



Pentecost Offering

May 19, 2013

There are four PC (USA) special offerings that our church participates in each year. Recently we participated in the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING. The second of the four offerings is the PENTECOST OFFERING. It is traditionally received on the Day of Pentecost. This year Pentecost Sunday is May 19th.

This offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40% of the offering to support ministries benefiting these age groups in our community. The remaining 60% provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children at risk programs.



Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised more than \$8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God’s family. Look for more information in the weekly Sunday bulletins.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

Building upon our 200 year history as the Presbyterian Church in Leesburg, we join together as a community of faith to receive and share the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. As God's people in an ever-changing world, we believe God is calling us to be a vibrant congregation of children, youth, and adults where:

- We foster a sense of deep belonging to God and to each other.
- We embrace people at different stages of their faith journey and together we seek to deepen our understanding of the Christian faith.
- We commit ourselves to gather on the Sabbath for the joyful worship of God and to disperse into the world as bearers of Christ's love.
- We engage the world through ministries of compassion.
- We invite and welcome all to experience God's transforming presence in our midst.

Did You Know ...

- The sanctuary is the oldest in continuous use by a Presbyterian congregation in the Washington area
- The church was dedicated on May 4, 1804
- It has been enrolled in the American/Reformed Historical Sites Registry
- Originally, the entrance was on the east side and a high pulpit with its sounding board was at the west side. Possibly the frontage was changed when a stable was built in 1827 where the manse stood, in what is now the front lawn area on the east side of the church.
- In 1878, there were extensive changes: the alcove was added, and four small windows on each side closed and changed to two large ones
- It is not known when the galleries were added but we do know that the left gallery was usually occupied by young men while the black members sat on the right
- The pews downstairs are the original ones used since the church was built in 1804
- Originally the church was lighted by candles or whale-oil lamps
- The walnut pulpit and three chairs presently in use were purchased for \$110 around 1877
- Around 1900, the bell and belfry were installed and are still in use
- The first person to be buried in the church grave yard was the Rev. Amos Thompson, the real founder of Presbyterianism in Loudoun County, and chaplain of the Revolutionary forces in the Continental Army
- Beside Mr. Thompson's grave is that of Ebenezer Potter, one of the first elders of the church
- Many of the ancestors of Leesburg families are buried in the church grave yard including Dr. Charles B. Ball and Thomas P. Knox both of whom were mayors; and Samuel B. T. Caldwell, historian, author and publisher of one of the first newspapers in Loudoun County
- The sanctuary was completely restored in 1974 - 1975

Calendar of Events

Friday, April 12	9:30 a.m.	Book Club
Monday, April 15	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers
Wednesday, April 17	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee
Sunday, April 21	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, April 23	7:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee
Wednesday, April 24	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee
Sunday, April 28	12:00 p.m.	Officer Training
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, April 30	7:30 p.m.	Session, Examination of Officers
Wednesday, May 1	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee
	7:30 p.m.	Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles
Thursday, May 2	10:30 a.m.	Tri-Church Presbyterian Women's Lunch
Saturday, May 4	6:00 p.m.	Guess Who's Coming to Appetizers?
Sunday, May 5		Fishes and Loaves offering
	1:30 p.m.	Grace-to-Go
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, May 7	7:00 p.m.	Deacons
Wednesday, May 8	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee
Friday, May 10	9:30 a.m.	Book Club
Monday, May 13	7:00 p.m.	Preschool Board
	7:00 p.m.	Mission and Witness Committee
Tuesday, May 14	9:00 a.m.	Moms Alive!
	7:00 p.m.	Evangelism and Membership Committee
	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
Wednesday, May 15	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee
Saturday, May 18	9:00 a.m.	Community Service Family Day at Real Food Farm, Baltimore
Sunday, May 19		Pentecost Offering
	9:45 a.m.	Children's Church School Celebration
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Monday, May 20	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers
Tuesday, May 21	7:30 p.m.	Session
Wednesday, May 22	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee
Sunday, May 26	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Tuesday, May 28	7:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee
Wednesday, May 29	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Committee

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
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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, 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.