



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

October 2013

FALL MANNA 2013

From Farm to Table: Nourishing The Body & the Spirit

October 2 – November 6

6:00pm – 6:40 pm Supper

6:40 pm – 7:30 PM Program

Childcare provided

It's **MANNA** time again at LPC offering all LPCers a wonderful opportunity to connect with each other mid-week while receiving nourishment for the body and the spirit! We have a delicious menu planned for our dinners and a very interesting adult series scheduled for our program. While we know everyone will enjoy our variety of guests speaking on food and nourishment from all kinds of perspectives, we understand that some of our families with young children need to leave after supper in order to put their wee ones to bed!

If you are planning to come to the first night of MANNA on October 2, please RSVP to the church office to let us know so that our Manna Team can prepare enough to feed all who gather. (office@lpcva.org)

Programs

- October 2 **The Mission of Eating Fresh, Healthy and Local**
- October 9 **The Mission of Gleaning** and the St. Andrew Society
- October 15 **The Mission of Sharing Bounty in Loudoun County**, Loudoun Interfaith Relief: Bud Elliot, LIR Board Member and member of LPC
- October 23 **The Hip Mission of Urban Farming**, Tyler Brown, Farm Manager of Real Food Farm, Baltimore, MD. (and son of Brad and Kathy Brown!)
- October 30 **The Mission of a Local Church in Feeding the Hungry**, Rev. Ashley Goff , associate pastor Church of the Pilgrims, Washington D.C.
- November 6 Pot-Luck Dinner followed by the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper shared at dinner tables

Menu

- October 2 Lasagne and Garlic Bread
- October 9 Chicken Pot Pie
- October 16 Homemade Quiches
- October 23 Pulled Pork, Baked Beans & Coleslaw
- October 30 Soups & Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
- November 6 Potluck

All meals will be served with salad, fruit, and dessert. The cost of the dinner this year is \$4.00 for ages 6 and up. Children 5 and under eat for free. Family maximum is \$15.

Vamos a Cuba!

A Religious/Cultural/Friendship Exchange Trip

February 17 - 24, 2014



The Mission & Witness Committee are exploring entering into a partnership between our congregation and a Presbyterian congregation in Cuba. Our pastor, Debbie Parsons, attended the Cuba Partnership Presbyterian Network Conference in Houston last week and learned that there are many steps in this process. The first step is for folks from LPC to go to Cuba and to visit a pastor and congregation in need of a Presbyterian US partner.

A trip has been planned for the week of February 17 - 24 under the sponsorship of New York Ave. Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. The leader of this trip, Marilyn Seiber, is an experienced pro at making all the arrangements for trips to Cuba and we are so fortunate to be able to take advantage of her leadership.

Interest meeting, Sunday, October 6, 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall: Meet with Debbie Parsons to discuss the details of our trip including expenses, lodging etc.

First Deadline, November 10: Submit VISA information (including passport info) to Marilyn; we receive a "religious visa" and this takes time to process

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.

Emma Clemens and Ruth circles will meet Wednesday, October 2, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. A good time was had by all 13 ladies at the Sept. supper meeting at the home of Faye Vance to start our new year. Everyone should have our new studybook, "An Abiding Hope." Let me know if you do not have one. Our 2nd lesson, "God's Call To Serve," will be led by Betty Lowenbach. Please read Exodus 2:11 - 4:17. Think about - As God called Moses, despite his hesitation, to serve, we too are called to service no matter how inadequate we may feel. All women are invited to join us. For more information call Shirley Pearson 703-777-7425.

Circle One

Thursday, October 3, 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

Monday, October 7, 9:30 a.m.

Please join us for a variety of reading and enjoyable discussions - all are welcome, even if you haven't finished the book. We meet at 9:30 in the church lounge. Contact Jennifer Marsh with any questions.

October 7 (first Monday) *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

October 24 (Thursday) Special Event - The (co)author of our November book will be speaking at the Rust Library.

There is a library book club meeting at 6pm, and William Kamkwamba will join after that.

November 11 (second Monday, **change of date**) *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba. This is the library's 1 Book 1 Community book selection. There's also a kid's version.

December 9 (second Monday) *Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah.

Monday Morning Stitchers

Monday, October 21, 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!

Friday, October 25, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

LPC's moms group, *Moms Alive!*, for mothers with children of all ages, moves to the fourth Friday of each month this fall, 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, please contact Kim Vigil at k97vigil@yahoo.com.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Dear Friends,

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee would like to provide an update on our progress in calling an Associate Pastor of Christian Formation at Leesburg Presbyterian Church. The formal process of calling an Associate Pastor began last November, when the Session approved our search. After following all of the necessary administrative steps set by our Presbytery, our search committee, comprised of Frank Gasperini, Heidi Renner, Kim Vigil, Stacey Markel, Stuart Brown, Hong McGill, and me as chairperson, was elected in January. By the end of February, 2013, we completed our Church Information Form, which outlined our ministry at Leesburg Presbyterian Church, and provided a picture of the qualifications, characteristics, and priorities we were seeking in a candidate. We began receiving referrals for the position in Mid-March.

Since forming as an APNC, our committee has met regularly, often weekly, over the past 9 months. We have reviewed more than 75 resumés and Personal Information Forms, watched videos, reviewed

lesson plans and sermons, and read blogs and other social media. Of this total number, we identified 8 strong candidates, whom we interviewed at least once via Skype. We spoke with numerous references for six of these candidates, and we hosted 2 of these candidates for face to face visits and interviewing. Although each time we hosted a candidate, we were hopeful of having identified the right person to join our ministry, neither of these candidates proved to be the right match for us. Nevertheless, we have been heartened to hear how positively our church, ministry, and community are perceived in writing, conversation, and in person. Each of us takes the work of finding LPC's first Associate Pastor seriously, and we remain committed to finding just the right person to join us in leading Christian Formation. We know that God is leading that person to us as we speak.

I must share with you that our process is made especially challenging by the limited potential pool of applicants who are willing to seek a ¾ time position, while living in the nation's wealthiest county. We

know that we have lost more than one good candidate for this reason. As I shared with you this time last year, I ask that we each consider giving prayerfully this stewardship season to move us toward making this position full-time.

Finally, at the end of this summer, we gave our thanks to two of our committee members, Frank Gasperini and Stuart Brown, who were no longer able to devote the significant time each week to continuing this search for both personal and professional reasons. To help complete our committee, we gratefully welcomed Cameron Spivey and Dave Nelson.

We are continuing to receive new interest in the position, and we are keeping ourselves open not only to new strategies and approaches for finding just the right person, but also to the work of the Holy Spirit. We ask for your continued prayers for our search.

In Christ,

Holly Rhodes
Chair, APNC

“The Youngins”!

“The Youngins” are a group of youngish women who have become a loosely formed group for the purpose of planning opportunities to become more connected to each other and to the ministry of Leesburg Presbyterian Church. They are married and single women who are and are not mothers and they are all youngish! (20's to early 40's). Karisma Neely is coordinating a team to plan this year's activities.

The first Youngins Gathering is a FALL PICNIC IN THE COUNTRY, Sunday afternoon, October 27th!

This is a family friendly event at the home of Brad and Kathy Brown, with games on the grounds, a hike to Goose Creek, hamburger-hotdog cook-out, and making S'mores over a fire! Brad will be grilling the hamburgers and hotdogs and the planning team will be sending an Evite asking folks to sign up to bring the fixins, and drinks. So be on the look-out for the information or contact Karisma Neely at Karisma.Neely@gmail.com or Lindsay.t.owen@gmail.com.

Attention Godly Play Parents

Godly Play is here at Leesburg Presbyterian Church! This way of worshipping with children, based on the principles of Maria Montessori, is highly regarded and used widely throughout the United States and worldwide. We use Godly Play with 4 year olds through 3rd graders during our 11:00 service, after Time With the Children. While our Church School offers children a chance to learn more *about* God and the life of Jesus, Godly Play is about helping children to know and experience God in a developmentally appropriate way.

We invite you to learn more about Godly Play and to experience it for yourselves during the Church School hour on Sunday, October 13. Details are below:

- Who: Parents of 4 year olds to 3rd graders (and others who want to learn more about Godly Play)
- Date: Sunday, October 13
- Time: 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
- Room: Godly Play room (last room on the left upstairs)



We hope to see you there!

Sunday Morning Adult Education

We have two stimulating study series scheduled for the Fall:

The Reformation and How It Came to America

Through October 6

Taught by Dana Huntley

Introduction to the Prophets

October 20 – November 10

Taught by John Sawyer

Preschool Particulars

We have had a wonderful start to our new preschool year. We are excited about our upcoming field trip to Pumpkinville on October 9th.

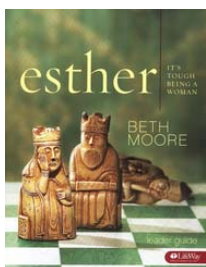


Intergenerational Women's Evening Bible Study

Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., October 7 through December 2

Based on Beth Moore's video bible study *Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman*

Led by LPC member, Nicole Morgenthau



“Join Beth in a very personal examination of the Old Testament story of Esther as she peels back the layers of history and shows how very contemporary and applicable the story is to our lives today. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seemed overpowering, this is the Bible study for you. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. This portion of God's Word contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried, and pressured lives.”

The cost of participant's workbook is \$15. We need 6 registered participants before we place our order for the video series.

Please e-mail Pastor Debbie (revdeb@lpcva.org) or Nicole (nlmorgenthau@gmail.com) to let us know if you plan to participate in this Bible Study—and you can drop off your check at the church office during the week or in the offering plate during Sunday worship. Please write check to LPC for \$15 with notation “Women's Bible Study” on the memo line.

Deadline for next Newsletter is October 21.

Welcome New LPC Members!

Jim and Jeanine Donlon

Children: Molly (age 10); Emmy (age 12)



Jim and Jeanine Donlon live in Purcellville and are the parents of two daughters, Emmy and Molly. Jeanine and Jim have attended LPC in the past and were married in the Presbyterian Church. Jim remarked that in attending our services, he and Jeanine both felt very comfortable here. Jim works at Oracle in Reston and Jeanine is a stay at home mom who has an interest in rug hooking and likes to paint furniture. Jim plays guitar in a band in his off time from work and the girls both play multiple sports. We welcome them as new members!

Paul and Krista Ritsema

Children: Hannah and Nate (both college students)

The Ritsemas moved here from Michigan and have lived in Leesburg for 5 1/2 years. Paul stated that after “visiting for five



years, we finally shook off our inertia and decided to become full-fledged members.” Paul and Krista attended many churches before deciding on Leesburg Presbyterian. Paul enjoys bike riding and house projects while Krista is interested in reading and horses. We are thrilled that Paul and Krista have decided to join as members rather than visitors!

Patricia (Pat) and Mike McKinney



The McKinneys reside in Purcellville. They had moved from Alexandria, Virginia. Pat and Mike own Market Street Coffee, located in Purcellville, with a kiosk in the Cornwall Medical Building. Mike also works for a financial

firm. Pat and Mike have 4 daughters. Our warm

congregation and their belief in the Presbyterian doctrine led them to LPC from the Methodist church in Purcellville. They share their love of coffee, bicycling and golf.

Holly and Jeremy Palmer

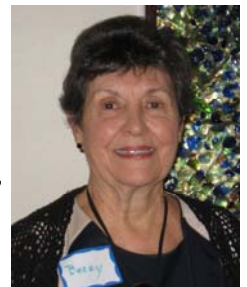


The Palmers have lived in Ashburn Farms for 18 months. They moved to this area from Albuquerque, New Mexico. The couple met in North Carolina. They were looking for a church to call home and wandered into LPC, after

gathering some information about our church on the Internet. Jeremy is very interested in joining the choir and also enjoys running. Holly shares his love of running and is very busy raising their two sons, ages seven and ten.

Becky Ottinger

Becky moved to Loudoun County in 1965 with her late husband and resided in mostly the Western area of Loudoun. Previously, she had moved from the Richmond area to Alexandria, Virginia. Her father was a Southern Baptist minister, which allowed them to move throughout Virginia over the years. Becky had heard Debbie preach and loved her as a minister. She also knows several of our members and feels very much at home at LPC. Since she retired after teaching 33 years in the Loudoun County school system, teaching American History, Government, Economics and sponsoring the SCA, she has many former students and colleagues in the Leesburg area. Becky volunteers for many agencies, including the T. Balch Library, Loudoun Educational Foundation and the Ladies Board at Inova Loudoun Hospital. She also enjoys gardening, travel and completing many projects.



We also welcomed the Burgesses, Morganthaus, Koppes and Owens over the last several months and look forward to introducing them to you in an upcoming newsletter.

LPC Mission and Witness at Work

Peacemaking Offering

October 6, 2013

Each year, there are four special Presbyterian PC (USA) offerings which go to special needs of missions, children at risk, future and former church workers and their families, and to local organizations which demonstrate the care of people in our own community.

On October 6th, World Communion Sunday, the Peacemaking Offering will be received. This offering provides Presbyterians an opportunity to “share the peace of Christ across the PC(USA).”

Individual congregations are able to keep 25% to designate a recipient in our own community. This year the 25% is designated for a program providing after school and summer services to Loudoun youth and children at risk.

Over many years, our congregation has been generous in sharing what we have received in so many ways. Thank you. PEACE!

For more information go to presbyterianmission.org/peacemakingoffering



2013 Alternative Giving Christmas Fair

December 8 – Fellowship Hall



For the past several years the Mission & Witness Committee has provided the congregation several opportunities to “shop” for alternative gifts during the holiday season. The Alternate Giving Christmas Fair will be held this year in the Fellowship Hall on December 8th. The Fair will allow you to visit display tables and talk to representatives about organizations you may want to support, and to purchase “gifts” for family and friends in the form of tangible items or donations.

The Mission & Witness Committee is in the process of choosing the organizations and opportunities to feature at the Fair. If you have ideas about organizations you would like to see represented, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact the committee members at missionwitness@lpcva.org.

Grace-to-Go

Sunday, November 3

LPC Grace-to-Go volunteers prepared 182 chicken and vegetarian dinners at Deli South on September 1st. These dinners spend a night in the refrigerator and then are distributed Monday afternoon in the St. James parking lot to anyone in need. Thank you to our September volunteers, Shirley Pearson, Taylor, Kim and Bailey Vigil, Florence O’Hey, Krista and Cara Martino, Diane DuCharm, Janie Baerd, Connie and John Niccolls, and Trish and Jeff Fraker. Our next Grace-to-Go mission opportunity will be at Deli South on November 3 from 1:30-3:30. You may volunteer by signing the bulletin board in the church hallway or emailing fraker1@verizon.net.

I want to sincerely thank you for the generous donation of school supplies to Frederick Douglass Elementary school. They will go to good use to support our students in the learning environment. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. Many thanks!

Sincerely,
Timothy Martino, Principal
Frederick Douglass ES
"Together We Shine"

Calendar of Events

Tues, Oct 1	7:00 p.m.	Deacons
Wed, Oct 2	6:00 p.m.	Manna
	7:30 p.m.	Emma Clemons/Ruth Circles
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thurs, Oct 3	10:00 a.m.	Circle One
Sun, Oct 6	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Oct 7	9:30 a.m.	Book Club
	7:00 p.m.	Preschool Board
	7:00 p.m.	Mission & Witness Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Tues, Oct 8	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
Wed, Oct 9	6:00 p.m.	Manna
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sun, Oct 13	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Oct 14		Office Closed
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Tues, Oct 15	7:30 p.m.	Session
Wed, Oct 16	6:00 p.m.	Manna
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sat, Oct 19		Interfaith Build
Sun, Oct 20	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Oct 21	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers
		Women's Bible Study
Tues, Oct 22	7:30 p.m.	Christian Ed Committee
Wed, Oct 23	6:00 p.m.	Manna
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Fri, Oct 25	9:00 a.m.	Moms Alive!
Sun, Oct 27	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wed, Oct 30	6:00 p.m.	Manna
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

News from the Session

Current members of the Session are Chris Folk, Trish Fraker, Frank Gasperini, Tom Gurney, Randy Jackson, Todd Joyce, Keith Markel, Steve Potter, Linda Rawlett, Wynne Rodgers, Cameron Spivey and Doug Sweeney. Rev. Debbie Persons serves as Moderator and Jim Barnes serves as Clerk.

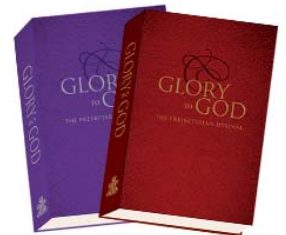
Among recent actions of the Session:

- ◆ Accepted into membership Jeffrey and Lindsay Owen by Letter of Transfer from Georgetown Presbyterian Church;
- ◆ Approved a revised Ministry Information Form as required for the search for an Associate Pastor; and
- ◆ Appointed Elders Frank Gasperini, Trish Fraker, Wynne Rodgers and Jim Barnes to serve on the search committee for interim and permanent organists and choir directors, and directed that the search committee provide monthly updates on the search process to the choir.

The session recently offered commendations for:

- ◆ Trish Fraker for coordinating guest organists and choir directors during the search for someone to fill these positions on an interim basis;
- ◆ Dennis Welsh for his hard work in developing the new parishes; and
- ◆ Nancy Vanzandt and Frank Gasperini for assisting with pastoral care needs while Rev. Parsons was away.

**The New Hymnbooks
Are Coming ...**



Guess Who's Coming for Appetizers? YOU!

When: Saturday, November 9, 6:00-8:00 PM

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.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
207 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

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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, Chris Folk, Trish Fraker, Frank Gasperini, Tom Gurney, Randy Jackson, Todd Joyce, Keith Markel, Steve Potter, Linda Rawlett, Wynne Rodgers, Cameron Spivey, and Doug Sweeney.

DEACONS: Glenna Bingham, Rebecca Caprio, Tom Chase, Joan Elliott, Babe McGuire, Kristen Moats, Florence O'Hey, Sharon Schmidt, Sofia Spivey, Nancy Vanzandt, and Dennis Welsh.