



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 2013

A Note from the Pastor—Overflowing Generosity!

³⁷While Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ ” John 7: 37-38

It is that time of year again when all of us who belong to Christ through our membership at Leesburg Presbyterian Church are asked to consider with prayer and intentional reflection our giving to the ministry and mission of our congregation. The “prompt” for our thinking this Stewardship Season is the imagery of overflowing water that points us to the generosity of God’s love and comfort and compassion that overflows into our lives from our belonging to Christ, the Living Water.



Each of us comes to a life of faith and to Christian community with a deep thirst. It may be a thirst for a real and living relationship with God; it may be a thirst for meaningful and supportive friendship; it may be a thirst for a community with whom you can serve meaningful purposes in the world; it may be a thirst for a faithful and moral framework in which to raise your children; it may be a thirst for comfort and hope in a troubled time. I pray that the abundance of God’s love and goodness and comfort has overflowed into your life from your connectedness to this body of faith. I pray that you have experienced moments that you can remember and name when you literally felt the Living Water of Jesus Christ overflowing and drenching you in his love and comfort and calling!

There is a second image to which this “overflowing water” language points us and that is this: we believers and believers are to be conduits of this living water for others! Such overflowing abundance I see in countless hours of service. I see lay volunteers give to the ministry of Leesburg Presbyterian—from teaching Sunday School, to bringing meals, to setting up the Sacrament, to chairing committees, to meeting with youth every Sunday night, to overseeing property projects, to hosting meals, to serving on mission projects. All this overflowing love for God’s people in acts of service is a glorious thing to see!

During Stewardship Season, each of us, minister and laity alike, are asked to look honestly and prayerfully about the “overflowingness” of our financial giving to the ministry of our church. Is my giving a generous and overflowing response to God’s generosity or is it more like a trickle? Is my giving from a heart drenched in the love and comfort and grace of my Creator and Redeemer and Sustainer or is my financial giving coming from a fearful, hoarding place in my heart?

These faithful, even difficult, questions can help guide each of us in our decision-making about our financial commitment to the ministry of Christ, the Living Water, that overflows in and through us at Leesburg Presbyterian Church. Let’s all enter into a deep period of prayer about “overflowing generosity”—that of God’s heart and that of our own hearts.

Grace and peace,
Debbie

“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 next Youngins Gathering is a Ladies’ Night Out, Thursday evening, November 21st, 6:15 PM

Leave the kids at home with hubby and join us at downtown Leesburg establishment for drinks and appetizers. Be on the look-out for more information via email or contact Karisma Neely at Karisma.Neely@gmail.com.

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.

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Wednesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.

Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles will meet Wednesday, November 6th, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in the memorial lounge. Note the new meeting room! For our lesson “Set Free by God,” please read Exodus 4:18-13:16. We will study how God’s power brought freedom to the Hebrew people. All women are invited to join us. For more information call Shirley Pearson 703-777-7425.

Circle One

Thursday, November 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

Monday, November 11, 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.

November 11 *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba.

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

Monday Morning Stitchers

Monday, November 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)

Moms Alive!

Friday, November 22, 9:00 a.m.

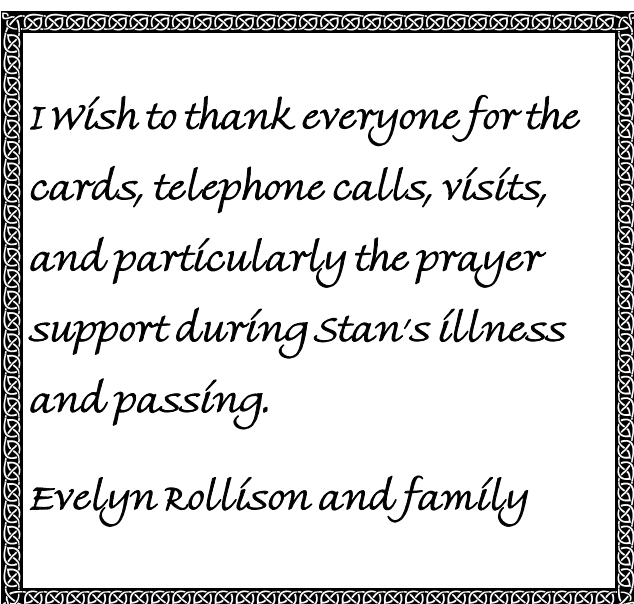
LPC’s moms group, *Moms Alive!*, for mothers with children of all ages, moves to the fourth Friday of each month this fall, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church with childcare provided. Our mission is to provide a social and supportive atmosphere for mothers in a Christian setting through fellowship, education and outreach. If you have questions, please contact Kim Vigil at k97vigil@yahoo.com.

Music Search Committee Update

During this interim music period we have been fortunate to have the services of three fine local organists. We are grateful to Robin Harris, Alan Ogden and Jim Moon for substituting for us. Jim spent three weeks with us both rehearsing the choir and playing our organ. We appreciate these gentlemen sharing their talents with us.

Now, we have the opportunity to welcome our interim organist/choir director, Dr. Pat Avery. She will be with us until we fill the position. Dr. Pat Avery is a native of Kentucky. She is a graduate of Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky where she majored in piano. Later in life she had the opportunity to study at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia where she earned a Master of Music Degree in church music and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Music Education. Pat is an elementary school music teacher in Loudoun County. Pat and Daniel have been married for 40 years. They are grandparents to three beautiful "Grandgirls!" Pat is looking forward to serving at Leesburg Presbyterian for the next several months.

The Music Search Committee is pleased to report that we have received many fine applicants for our position. The committee members, Jim Barnes, Frank Gasparini, Wynne Rogers, Trish Fraker and Rev. Parsons, are reviewing resumes, and contacting references as we continue the search process.



News from the Session

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

Among recent actions of the Session:

- ◆ Accepted into membership:
 - ◇ Michael, Patricia, Caroline, Megen, Elise and Catherine McKinney by Letter of Transfer from Bethany United Methodist Church, Purcellville, Va.;
 - ◇ Rebecca Ottinger by Letter of Transfer from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Purcellville, Va.;
 - ◇ Jeremy and Holly Palmer by Letter of Transfer from Sandia Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque, N.M.;
 - ◇ Krista and Paul Ritsema by Letter of Transfer from North Hills Christian Reformed Church, Troy, Mich; and
 - ◇ Jeanine and Jim Donlon by Letter of Transfer from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Purcellville, Va.
- ◆ Endorsed a goal of searching for a full-time Associate Pastor for Christian Development, contingent on sufficient funding projections, and agreed that LPC's fall stewardship campaign include the goal of attaining a giving level that would provide funding for a full-time Associate Pastor.
- ◆ Set aside \$7,559 in funding for the Associate Pastor search, to be used for three Seminary trips (to Atlanta, Richmond and Princeton), a video representation of LPC (to present to prospective candidates), and visits to LPC by candidates. The funding is in support of the ongoing search, currently and continuing into 2014.
- ◆ Authorized the use of funds from donations for the new hymnals to cover the costs of LPC's participation in the recent hymnal event in Wayne, Pa.

The session recently offered commendations for:

- ◆ Trish Fraker for her efforts in leading the search process for a new music director;
- ◆ Randy Jackson and Keith Markel for doing an outstanding job heading up the sidewalk improvement project;
- ◆ Debbie Parsons for the compliments she has received from new members regarding her meaningful sermons;
- ◆ The Bluegrass Band for their wonderful performance, including Jim Barnes, who made his public debut on mandolin; and
- ◆ Members of the choir for their faithfulness in supporting the music ministry during this time of transition.

LPC Mission and Witness Committee at Work

LPC helps Loudoun Habitat for Humanity - Putting Faith Into Action

Special thanks to Brad Brown, Beth Hood, Randy Jackson, Jim Ruddell, J.B. Sandefur, Kathi Stone, Rick Stone, and Barney McCracken who worked at the Habitat for Humanity's interfaith Abraham Build Project on October 19 in the village of St. Louis. Nearing construction completion, volunteers performed several finishing touches to the property such as installing shoe molding, caulking around exterior and interior trim, installing kitchen hardware, and painting touch-ups throughout the house. Volunteers also installed a roof and siding on the shed. Thanks to our congregation as well, for without your regular generous financial support, mission work in our community would not happen.



Beth Hood



Jim Ruddell

The 4-bedroom, 2-bath house on St. Louis Road in Middleburg currently has no owner. If you know a family who may qualify to purchase it, please suggest they call Habitat at 703-737-6772. The application form with qualification criteria is posted on the Mission and Witness bulletin board. (For example, they must have lived and worked in Loudoun County for one year and for a family of five, their annual regular income should be between \$34,800-\$69,550.

The next build date is set for November 2.



J.B. Sandefur



Randy Jackson and Brad Brown



Rick Stone

Holiday Coalition

The Mission and Witness Committee will once again have a Christmas Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, November 10th to benefit the Community Holiday Coalition. Pick an ornament off the tree and buy an age appropriate gift. Please leave unwrapped gifts under the tree. Deadline for all gifts to be returned is December 1st. A wish guide will be posted next to the tree to give you ideas. Thank you for your kindness for the less fortunate.



Calendar of Events

Sat, Nov. 2	9:00 a.m.	Interfaith Build
Sun, Nov. 3	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Nov. 4	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Ctte
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Tues, Nov. 5	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
Wed, Nov. 6	6:00 p.m.	Manna
	7:30 p.m.	Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thurs, Nov. 7	10:00 a.m.	Circle One
Sat, Nov. 9	6:00 p.m.	Guess Who's Coming for Appetizers?
Sun, Nov 10	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Nov 11	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
	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Ctte
Tues, Nov 12	7:00 p.m.	Evangelism & Membership Ctte
	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
Wed, Nov 13	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sun, Nov 17	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Nov 18	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Ctte
Tues, Nov 19	7:30 p.m.	Session
Wed, Nov 20	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thurs, Nov 21	6:15 p.m.	Youngins Ladies Nite Out
Fri, Nov 22	9:00 a.m.	Moms Alive!
Sun, Nov 24	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon, Nov 25	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 pm.	Assoc. Pastor Nominating Ctte
Tues, Nov 26	7:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee
Wed, Nov. 27		OFFICE CLOSED
Thurs, Nov 28		OFFICE CLOSED
Fri, Nov 29		OFFICE CLOSED

Loaves and Fishes

The Loaves and Fishes baskets were full on Sunday, October 5, and 200 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated to Loudoun Interfaith Relief. Thanks to all who assisted in loading the car. The next Loaves and Fishes collection is November 3. Interfaith suggests to continue canned vegetables and meats.

LPC Men's Night December 12th

All LPC men are invited to a Men's Night Out on Thursday, December 12, from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, hosted by Christian Hoff at his home in Leesburg. We will be grilling brats and sliders. Please bring a drink of your choosing and/or a side dish to share (I will have some beer, wine and water as well). Please RSVP to Cindy in the office at 703-777-4163 or office@lpcva.org so we can have an approximate headcount. Watch for an email with more details.

Alternative Giving Christmas Fair December 8 - Fellowship Hall

A Christmas Fair may feature the normal material gifts for the season. The Leesburg Presbyterian Church Alternative Giving Fair features something more. Whether tangible or intangible, this fair focuses on gifts that give back to local, national or international communities in need.

The Alternate Giving Christmas Fair this year will have a youth focus, with opportunities to give gifts recognizing your contribution to youth related mission needs. The Mission & Witness Committee will hold the Fair on December 8th in the Fellowship Hall. So put aside a little extra allowance and come ready to pick from some of the most unique gifts, that you can feel uniquely good about!

If you have any questions, please email the committee at missionwitness@lpcva.org

Special Offerings

The **Peacemaking Offering** was received on October 5th. The total amount received in this PC(USA) special offering was \$952. 25% will be given to R.E.A.L., a program which is a cooperative effort between two agencies working with children at risk in the community. Your gift through this offering is greatly appreciated.

The last offering of the year is The **Christmas Joy Offering**, received on December 22nd. This PC(USA) offering is distributed equally between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which serves current and former church workers and their families, and "opportunities for deserving students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to achieve their dreams through Presbyterian related education."

Deadline for next Newsletter is November 18

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207 West Market Street
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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, 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.