



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

February 2012

Pastor's Report for 2011 From the 2012 Annual Meeting The Rev. Deborah Dodson Parsons

I continue to be amazed and grateful for the good folk and positive spirit that fill Leesburg Presbyterian Church. I know from my many years serving as interim pastor not to take this for granted! I think it is important for church members and visitors to know what a beautiful servant heart our lay leadership has. In the meetings of deacons and elders there is lively discussion, laughter, a readiness to take on tasks, an open-heartedness in discussion and even in disagreement. Your active ordained lay leaders put in so many volunteer hours with energy and intelligence and love! One of the goals of 2011 that the Session accomplished was to create and organize our ministry goals around a mission statement. In addition to the deacons and elders, there are so many members who volunteer as ushers, liturgists, choir members, committee members, youth ministry team, church school teachers, Sunday fellowship hosts etc. I am so thankful that the ministry of this church is truly a *shared ministry!*

In addition, I continued to work in 2011 with a wonderful team of staff persons: Cindy Hollister, Julie Koochagian, Becky Sweet and Kathy Adcock, Elaine Thiel, Jane Wallace (wedding coordinator), and Kristin

Petersen Evans. These individuals are bright, talented, and always willing to go beyond duty to serve the people and the ministry of Leesburg Presbyterian Church and our pre-school.

Two significant changes happened in the area of Christian Education ministry in 2011. With the departure of Rev. Audrey Wiggins in September, two women stepped up to the plate to lead this ministry with our children. Juli Barnes accepted the position of chairperson of the Christian Education Committee while former chairperson, Holly Rhodes, assumed the weekly responsibility of planning and leading YOUNG DISCIPLES, our new program during Sunday worship for children (4 year old through 3rd grade). Both of these women have the knowledge, the experience and the love of children to fulfill these roles superbly! However, with our growing number of young children, our hope and prayer is that God will lead us to the right person to staff this ministry. Sharon Brown has continued energetic leadership in the area of Adult Education.

Another significant change is in the area of youth ministry. Kristin Petersen Evans and I have led this ministry for three years and knew that we needed to build a youth

ministry adult team in order to strengthen this ministry with our growing number of middle schoolers! Serving on this team since September are Elizabeth Dame, Kristin Petersen Evans, Laura Herring, Randy Jackson and Wes Rhodes. Approximately 20 young people attend the Sunday evening meetings which include supper, recreation, devotion, and small group meetings. The enthusiasm and consistency of participation provides a strong testimony to both the new design and the splendid adults who give of their time every Sunday night to meet with the youth. Audrey Potter has been our wonderful meal coordinator!

Good signs in 2011 of our congregational vitality is our steady and slightly growing worship attendance and the very good response to our Stewardship program in October/November, represented in new and increased pledges.

A continuing challenge that confronts me and this congregation is to figure out how to lead this church into a future where we not only grow in numbers but also in the depth of our discipleship given our present constraints in terms of staff

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Pastor's Report for 2011

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leadership. My questions for 2011 are still pertinent if not anxiety-producing for me and for us in 2012:

How does the church as a volunteer-run organization create, plan, and implement worthwhile programs that build up the Body of Christ and equip disciples of Jesus to serve each other and the world in the busy, activity-filled, high-demand school/work/extra-curricular lives of our members? How can we nourish each other without depleting each other? How do we deepen the sense of belonging to Christ and his church for those who are here, welcome the stranger, and remind each other that the real field of our discipleship is out in the world where we live, work, play, and study? How do we most effectively structure our ministry areas and organize the work to be done with our member volunteers? What would a simple yet faithful and winsome ministry look like? Can a congregation's program be modest and yet satisfy the wants and needs of our members and visitors?

But in the midst of questions and anxiety about "how to get it all done", God's calling us to faithfulness and joy and service keeps moving us to take one step at a time on the journey of discipleship.

Debbie

Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups**Bible Study****Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.**

Join us Wednesday mornings for a time of learning and fellowship.

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles **Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.**

In January, we will resume our study of the Beatitudes with lesson 4, *Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice*. This is the 4th Beatitude in Matthew 5:6 and in Luke 6:21a, 25a. Betty Lowenbach will lead this lesson and we will meet in our usual place, the church library at 7:30 p.m.

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).

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!

Circle One**Thursday, February 9, 10:00 a.m.**

The women of Circle One meet the first Thursday of each month for a time of fellowship, study and spirited discussion. Please accept our open invitation to join us February 9th at 10:00 am as we continue our look at the Beatitudes. No advance preparation needed. If you have questions about the study or Circle One, contact Laura Herring at 703-777-7639.

Monday Morning Stitchers**Monday, February 13, 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)

LPC Book Club**Friday, March 9, 9:30 a.m.**

We now meet bimonthly! Our next meeting will be Friday, March 9, at 9:30 in the church lounge. We will discuss *Cleopatra's Daughter* by Michelle Moran, a story of the orphaned twins of Marc Antony and Cleopatra who are brought to Rome after Octavian seizes power in Egypt. Please join us for our ever-enjoyable book discussion and fellowship. Contact Jennifer Marsh with any questions (jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com or 703-779-0042).

3rd Annual SWEET SOMETHING Silent Auction Sunday, February 12

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the 3rd Annual “Sweet Something” Silent Auction will be held after both worship services on Sunday, February 12 to raise funds for the High School Youth Mission trip to West Virginia and the Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs. 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 \$2,000; our goal this year is to raise \$2,500!!! 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

Sign-ups will begin on January 29th! The youth really appreciate the wonderful support of their church family for their summer ministry trips!

Leesburg Presbyterian Church Ladies High Tea

Saturday, February 18th
2:00—4:00 pm
LPC Fellowship Hall

LPC Ladies and Friends—Enjoy the elegant nibbles of a traditional afternoon English tea, sandwiches and sweets, and the beautifully set tables provided by LPC members using their own “best china,” and handsome servers!

An added treat will be our special guest, Rev. Joan Stewart, the Executive Director of West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. She will share with us her own amazing journey of becoming a minister at mid-life in her talk, “The Gift of Locusts.”

Tickets for this special event are limited, so be sure to purchase your ticket (\$12) right away!

For additional information or to host a table at high tea, please contact Shana Folk (571) 291-2933 or Wynne Rodgers (703) 777-7168.



RE-CAP of IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

Sunday, February 12: Dessert Silent Auction after worship benefitting Youth Summer Trips

Saturday, February 18: Ladies High Tea

Ash Wednesday, February 22:
6:00 PM Pancake Supper
6:45 PM Worship Service

Lent Begins . . .

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. You will be hearing more about Lent at LPC this year but in the meantime we will begin the Lenten Journey with our Ash Wednesday Service, February 22nd with our Annual Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm and Worship at 6:45 pm.

Join us to kick off the Lent Season.

Deacons are hosting a Pancake Supper
Wednesday, February 22nd

6:00 p.m.—6:45 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service Follows at 6:45



Baby – It’s Cold Outside!

but the music of the Season warmed our hearts as Wynne Rodgers and Paul Ritsema shared this Classic rendition during our Christmas Dinner. Our children were also led by Renate and Karisma Neely in a lovely seasonal piece.

Another highlight was the worship music during the Advent season, including a musical worship service led by our Sanctuary Choir of twenty members as they presented “Love Looked Down” (a cantata written by Marty Parks). The faithful commitment of so many of our choir members enhances our worship at LPC. As 2012 begins, we have welcomed two new choir members! May even more join us!



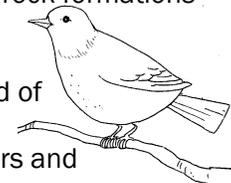
Music is a vital part of worship and ministry at LPC. This year we had increased congregational participation in worship through a variety of styles and responses, utilizing ensembles, soloists, instrumentalists, and choirs. We are frequently blessed by the talents and service of instrumentalists Kathy Adcock (piano), Mary Paige Rodgers (guitar), and Nate Ritsema (violin, guitar).

It is a privilege to lead our congregation in worship through music.

“Singfully” yours,
Becky Sweet

Christmas Count

My father was an avid bird-watcher and one of the highlights of his “bird-life” was the annual Christmas Count, sponsored by the Audubon Society. Scores of birders would scatter in designated spots, parks, playa lakes, cotton fields, the plains and the rock formations of the caprock to count birds—their number and their species. Then these birders would come together at the end of the day, and over big pots of chili, they would present and collate their numbers and celebrate birding!



Well, we did our own Christmas Count at Leesburg Presbyterian. In just sheer numbers of those who attended special gatherings, our celebration of Christmas was an exuberant one.

- Christmas Dinner - 155
- Living Nativity – 100 plus
- 5:00 Christmas Eve Service- 140
- 7:00 Christmas Eve Service – 160
- 11:00 Christmas Eve Service – 80
- Christmas Morning – 53

Thank you to all who put up the stall, wore costumes, sang, ushered, served, cooked, cleaned up, set tables, read Scripture, decorated etc. The joy was palpable and goodwill spread among all!

Debbie



PRESCHOOL PARTICULARS

The New Year has not slowed down the LPCP! Fall registration is underway in February, with tours already taking place in January. We received good feedback on holiday activities, thank you! (This is so helpful in planning for next year, yes, already, AND we have a new approved calendar for the 2012-2013 school year as well!) February finds the Young 2's class extending the day to 8:30-11:15. Our enrollment is at 74 ... we had to say goodbye to some students who were moving, and we welcomed 3 new students. Thanks to all the fabulous staff for a great beginning to 2012!



News from the Session

Current members of the Session are Jim Barnes (Clerk), Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Jason Hovda, Randy Jackson, William Marsh, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, Doug Sweeney and Jane Wallace. Rev. Debbie Persons serves as Moderator.

Among recent actions taken by the Session:

- Accepted Lisa and Stuart Weikel into membership by Letter of Transfer from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas.
- Approved a transfer of membership for Barbara and Dan Walker to Galilee Baptist Church in Gorham, Maine.
- Authorized Rev. Parsons to hire Eric Nanz for a four-month period beginning in January 2012 to lead the youth group in musical activities.
- Elected Elder Jim Barnes to serve as Clerk of Session and Elder Pam Poisson to serve as Treasurer for 2012.
- Approved the wedding of Jaclyn Michelle Austin and Matthew Scott Irvine at LPC on June 16, 2012.
- Approved the LPC budget for 2012.
- Authorized LPC teenagers to serve Communion on Youth Sunday, May 6.

The Session has offered commendations for the following people:

- Paul Ritsema, Wynne Rodgers, Krista Spivey and all others who performed in the wonderful Christmas Program this year.
- Becky Sweet, Kathy Adcock and the Choir for the outstanding Christmas Cantata.
- Juli Barnes for her leadership of the Christian Education Committee and her hard work coordinating the Living Nativity.
- Members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee for their excellent work on the fall stewardship campaign and development of the 2012 budget.
- Jim Barnes for serving as a witness to LPC by writing about the Living Nativity and his family's participation in the event in his column for Leesburg Patch.
- Paul Ritsema for doing an outstanding job as liturgist.

GRACE TO GO MEAL MINISTRY Sunday, March 4 Volunteers Needed

LPC will be hosting the food preparation at Deli South on Sunday, March 4, 2:30 - 4:30. There are three ways to volunteer:

- sign up on-line at St. James Episcopal website: <http://www.stjamesleesburg.org/graceToGo.asp>
- on the paper sign-up sheet on the Mission and Witness bulletin board
- call Kathi Stone.

No previous experience required. Come and join the fun and fellowship as we prepare meals for 180 local residents in need of assistance.

Adult Education 2012

**EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE
CHRISTIAN FAITH BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

Continuing through May 20

Topics: Christian Living, Sin, Eschatology, Resurrection, Creeds and Confessions

Led by: William Marsh, Pastor Debbie, John Sawyer, Dana Huntley

NOOMA

February 5 - 19

Led by: Betty Lowenbach

LENTEN STUDY

February 26 - April 1

Enlighten

Equip

Encourage

NEWS FROM MALAWI

**Happy New Year from Franklin N'Goma,
Malawi accountant and project manager**

Friends in Christ,

I wish you A Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the good Lord bless you all the time for your wonderful work. You are indeed friends in need.

Franklin

**Yours faithfully from Zondiwe Jere in
Livingstonia, Malawi**

(this student receives tuition and expenses support for studies at University of Livingstonia through the Mission & Witness Committee and the generosity of the congregation)

11/17/2011

Hello,

I would like to inform you that we are about to start writing end of semester examinations. I have prepared very well and am going to pass with flying colors. Secondly, I would like to bring to your attention that we will be opening our school on 10th January, 2012. This will be my last semester at the college.

12/13/2011 – Hello

I would like to inform you that the money is in, as I went to check in my bank account. I really appreciate that. May you convey thanks to all who have taken part in this initiative. Also, I would like to wish you all the best as you celebrate, may the good Lord be with you and your families.

Finally, I would like to bring to you that I registered for newsletters at your website and am glad that I hear whatever is happening at your church and I cherish that.

Yours Faithfully, Zondiwe Jere

To LPC from our friend in Luvwere, Malawi

Greetings dear friends,

Although I would have loved if this note were for both Christmas and New Year greetings but I am not sure since we are now some days in the new year.

2011 has gone but I am not sure also if it will have gone with its painful darts. Well, enough with that. Luvwere Community has very good reasons to thank the Almighty God in the 2011.

As just as I had said in one of the LUVWERE SEE, our Community received 250 school desks for the Community Secondary School from Plan Malawi. We are building a Library block at the Community Secondary School and third we have received money from Leesburg Presbyterian. We received this money on 13th December through Loudon Presbytery Projects.

We are very thankful to all of you at Leesburg Presbyterian. May the ever merciful Lord bless you all abundantly in the 2012 and beyond and protect you all from all sorts of bad luck.

Please when you will make an Embangweni, Malawi visit kindly include Luvwere on your program. Come and see what we are doing.

May the grace and love our Holy Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all in 2012.

William S S Zgambo

This Week at Leesburg Presbyterian Church

Stay up to date on the comings and goings of your church community. To receive a weekly email about upcoming events and activities at LPC, email office@lpcva.org to be added to the distribution list.

Did you know that Sunday's bulletin, including announcements, is posted on the website the previous Friday? www.lpcva.org

February 2012

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



Leesburg Presbyterian Church
Rev. Deborah Parsons
207 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176
Phone: 703-777-4163
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, Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Jason Hovda, Randy Jackson, William Marsh, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, Doug Sweeney, and Jane Wallace.

DEACONS: Glenna Bingham, Rebecca Caprio, Tom Chase, Sandy Gasperini, Kim Goldstein, Tom Gurney, Carla Holland, Julie Koochagian, Babe McGuire, Connie Niccolls, Shirley Pearson, and Nancy Vanzandt.

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