

# 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)

December 2012

**Practicing the Presence of Emmanuel** is this year's theme for our Advent/Christmas celebration at Leesburg Presbyterian. The central message of this holy season is that God has come among us in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. This is a mystery that cannot ultimately be explained or solved but it can be practiced! What does this look like?

For me it means to make a reservation with God – hopefully on a daily basis but surely on a weekly basis. In the midst of holiday parties, school programs, school sports, shopping, wrapping, baking, worrying, cleaning house, decorating house, I want to make sure that I make an appointment to STOP and to sing about, pray about, hear about, explore the mystery of Emmanuel—God. With. Us.! And the best way that I do this is in community with other followers of Jesus.

Below is a calendar listing those activities that we have intentionally planned for the community of faith – both members and visitors – to make an appointment with God and to practice the glad tidings of Christmas—God. With. Us! From the carefully planned services of Advent Sabbath worship, to the all-church Christmas dinner where young and old will hear and see the Christmas story in drama and song, to the magical Living Nativity, to mid-week meditations on our Advent scripture readings - we believe that these are ways for every one of us to *practice the presence of Emmanuel*.

I encourage you to mark dates in the busy month of December “ADVENT PRACTICE.” Envision these dates as appointments for you and/or your families to be touched by the mystery of Emmanuel.

Grace and peace,

Debbie

## Practicing the Presence of Emmanuel 2012 Advent/Christmas Celebration at LPC

December 2: *First Sunday of Advent—The Presence Is Not to Be Rushed*  
Alternative Giving Christmas Faire

December 9: *Second Sunday of Advent—The Presence Is Invited*  
All Church Christmas Dinner and Christmas Program  
5:00 First Seating  
6:15 Christmas Program  
7:00 Second Seating

December 16: *Third Sunday of Advent—The Presence Is Worth Finding*  
Living Nativity—Narrations begin at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.

December 23: *Fourth Sunday of Advent—The Presence Is Unsettling*  
No Church School

December 24: *Christmas Eve—The Presence Is Radiant*  
5:00 Family Candlelight Service  
7:00 Candlelight Service  
11:00 Candlelight Service with Communion

December 30: One Service at 11:00 a.m.  
No Church School

## A Timely Reminder About Year-end Gifts to Our Church

Some inquiries have been made regarding making year-end gifts to the church—for either the Generation to Generation Capital Campaign for the renovation of our building and grounds or for our operating budget. You may make charitable contributions by cash or check or you may also want to consider donating appreciated securities. It's a great way to maximize your contribution while minimizing your tax implications.

Here's how it works: You contribute shares of appreciated stock that you have held for over one year directly to Leesburg Presbyterian Church. The church will sell the securities immediately, realizing the full market value at the time of the donation. You get to deduct the full sales value of the securities and avoid paying capital gains tax\*. It's a win-win situation. Your broker or financial institution can handle the transaction utilizing the following information for all DTC eligible securities:

DTC #141  
 Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
 Account #6284-7177

Should you graciously wish to wire cash to make your charitable contribution, please use the following procedures provided by Wachovia Securities:

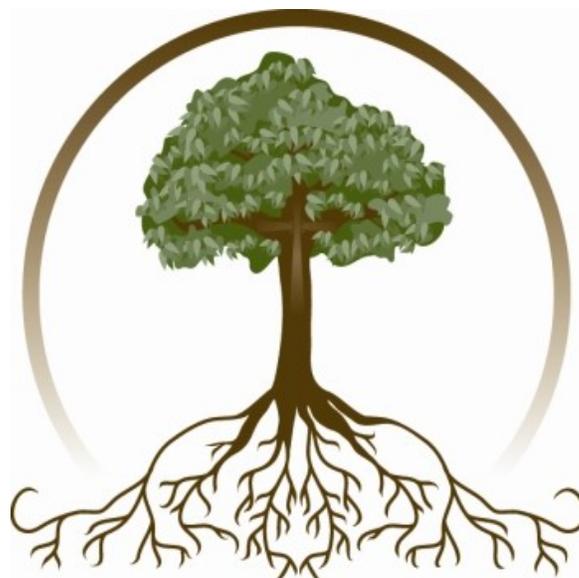
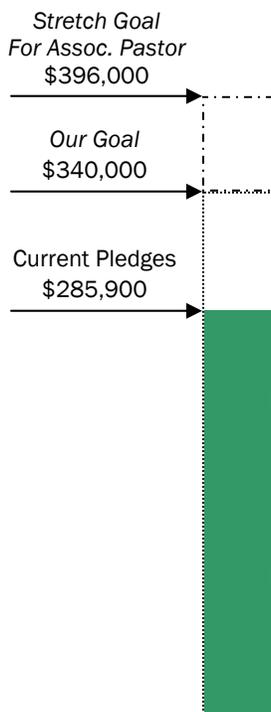
Wachovia Bank, N.A. / Roanoke VA ABA #051400549  
 Beneficiary: First Clearing, LLC  
 Account #5050000000631  
 Further Credit: Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
 Account #6284-7177

Please notify Julie Koochagian, Business Manager, so that your transaction can be tracked and full credit given on your annual giving statement. You may also contact a member of the Endowment Committee with any questions regarding this information: Brad Brown, Sheri Nelson, Betty Lowenbach

\* As always, please check with your tax advisor for your unique tax circumstances.

## Deepening Our Faith - Widening Our Reach

### 2013 Stewardship Campaign Update



Thank you to all who have pledged for 2013! Of the 109 pledging units in 2012, to date we have received 75 pledges, plus 13 new pledges, totaling \$285,900. Pledge cards are still available in the pews or the church office. You may place your pledge in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail it to the church office marked "bookkeeper."

## Annual Christmas Dinner



*Sunday, December 9*

First Seating: 5:00 PM  
Second Seating: 7:00 PM

Program: 6:15 PM

*The Living Light*

The Deacons invite you to a traditional holiday dinner. We will provide honey baked hams, rolls, and beverages. You complete the meal by bringing your tastiest side dish or dessert. Look in the bulletin for details and sign up sheet. See you there!

*Join us for  
the Living Nativity!  
December 16, 2012  
6:00, 6:30, 7:00 pm*

Please join us at this year's living nativity on the front lawn of the church on Sunday evening December 16<sup>th</sup>. Come at 6:00 or 6:30 or 7:00 to hear the story of Jesus' birth and to sing traditional carols as we gather close around the manger. Look soon for a web-based sign-up sheet to be one of the characters—Mary or Joseph, angels or shepherds and a wiseman (person!). Volunteers serve in 30 minute shifts.

Invite a friend or neighbor to observe this special part of Christmas at Leesburg Presbyterian. We'll have cookies, warm drinks, great fellowship and some of the animals who would have been there to witness the birth of Baby Jesus.



*The Living Light*



I hope you will all mark your calendars for the Highlight of the Christmas season!!! As we look forward to the special music of the season, this year's program is different than in recent years. **The Living Light**, by Ruth Schram, is a dramatic musical experience that includes acting as well as choral music. Our own Sofia Spivey is preparing a wonderful backdrop of the inn at Bethlehem and the sanctuary stage will be transformed as the innkeeper (Stuart Brown), his wife (Mary Hunter Leach) and daughter (Carly Potter) reflect on the happenings in the stable of the birth of Christ. Mary and Joseph (Ashley Jackson and Jason Hovda) will bring those events to our eyes and ears as they share from their hearts. Add some shepherds, Roman soldier, citizens of Bethlehem and a king (Dana Huntley) or two and you have the makings of a wonderful experience. The choir and soloists will add the beautiful touches to lift our spirits and impact our spiritual journey.

You will NOT want to miss this. It is NOT happening on Sunday morning - IT IS HAPPENING at 6:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, between the two seatings of our fabulous LPC Christmas dinner. This is an event for the WHOLE family. Dinner, theater, and music - what fun! So make your reservation for the 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. dinner and make sure the whole family enjoys this season's KICKOFF!!!

Blessings to you as we anticipate this Advent!  
Becky Sweet, Director of Music

### Holiday Giving Tree

The Community Holiday Coalition will celebrate its 17<sup>th</sup> year this year. The “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program was established in 1996.

A giving tree with “ornaments” is set up in the back of the Fellowship Hall to support the Community Holiday Coalition’s store where clients select presents for their families. Choose an ornament with a description of a child, teen or senior and buy an age appropriate gift and place it unwrapped under the tree by December 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions or want to learn about other ways to help, see a member of the Mission and Witness Committee or visit [www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition](http://www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition).

#### Gift Suggestions:

- Clothing: Complete outfits for infants through teens.
- Toys: New toys of all kinds and books for infants through teens.
- Teens: New electronic games, jewelry, purses, toiletry items. This group is the biggest challenge.
- Seniors: Blankets and quilts, warm sweaters and cardigans (especially XL and up), hats and gloves, underwear (larger sizes) and socks.
- Gift Certificates: Varied certificates (for teenage girls in particular). Certificates in small amounts such as \$10 are easier to distribute fairly.



**Time to think outside the gift wrapped box!**  
**2012 Alternative Christmas Faire on Sunday, December 2**  
**9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.**

For the past several years the Mission & Witness Committee has provided the congregation several opportunities to "shop" for alternative gifts during the holiday season.

This year we invited some of our partners in the Global Mission Network of the Capitol Area Presbytery to join us at the 2012 Alternative Christmas Faire. They will share their mission hopes and dreams with us and also give us the opportunity to join their mission teams. Please join us to learn how our Presbytery reaches out with helping hands all over the world!

We hope you will consider supporting the following organizations and Global Mission Network partner projects!



- Grace-to-Go feeding ministry, LPC, St. James Episcopal & Others in Leesburg**
- Heifer International, all over the world**
- Kenya – United Orphanage & Academy, Old Presbyterian Meeting House & Westminster Presbyterian**
- Kibwezi, Kenya-Village Partnership for Children’s/Orphans Health Clinic, Preschool, Technical School, Burke Presbyterian**
- Njoro, Kenya – Orphans & Vulnerable Children Support through Chicken Project, New York Avenue PC**
- Havana & Matanzas, Cuba – Havana Church School for the Elderly, telephone hotline, library & Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, New York Avenue PC**
- Fairly-traded and sustainably-grown coffee, tea, chocolate, and handcrafts from SERRV, LPC**

Haven't been to an alternative fair before? It's simple! Come to the Fellowship Hall on December 2, visit the display tables, talk to representatives about the organizations you want to support, then purchase your "gifts". Cards will be available to give to family and friends that explain a donation has been made in their name. Questions may be directed to any member of the Mission and Witness Committee.

### Christmas Joy Offering December 23, 2012



Each year, LPC participates in four PC(USA) special offerings. These offerings address the needs of many including victims of violence, disaster, children at risk, people starving and impoverished.

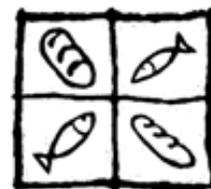
The Christmas Joy Offering provides a timely opportunity for congregations to

- Support racial ethnic education of Presbyterian related schools and colleges “where students develop their gifts and find their calling.”
- Help families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs.

During the month of December, please take note of the bulletin inserts. Special envelopes will be supplied for your offering.

### "Fishes and Loaves"

Last summer, when there was an increased need for food for the hungry in Loudoun, we all brought in our food offerings on the first Sunday of each month, when we received Communion. Hunger is still a significant issue in Loudoun County and Interfaith Relief welcomes our Fishes and Loaves offering.



Beginning in January 2013, let us all bring in food items, then as we are fed and nurtured around the "communion table" we are a part of feeding others.

### Disaster Relief for Hurricane Sandy

The road to recovery from the overwhelming destruction of Hurricane Sandy has just begun. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is committed to walk with our partners through the immediate relief and long-term recovery phases of the response. One Great Hour of Sharing funds have been sent, and members of the National Response Team have already been deployed to help in the response efforts.

How to give:

- Write a check to LPC with Hurricane Sandy in the memo line
- Give online: [www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org)
- Text PDA to 20222 to donate \$10
- Mail check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

### Holiday Office Hours

So that the church staff may enjoy the holidays with their families, the office will be operating on a reduced schedule December 24 - January 1.

Monday, December 24:	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 25:	closed
Wednesday, December 26:	closed
Thursday, December 27:	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Friday, December 28:	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, December 31:	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1:	closed



In the event of a pastoral emergency, you may reach Pastor Debbie at (703) 728-5410 or (210) 710-7076.

### Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

**Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles**

**Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.**

Our annual Christmas Party will take place at the home of Faye Vance. Members will be called as to what to bring for supper. Please bring \$10 for Hurricane Sandy relief in lieu of a gift exchange. No lesson this meeting - just fun!

**Circle One**

**Thursday, December 6, 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 will meet throughout the church school year on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am at LPC.

**LPC Book Club**

**Friday, December 14, 9:30 a.m.**

Please join us for our wonderful book discussions on second Fridays, 9:30 in the lounge. We'll meet in December for fellowship, refreshments, Christmas cheer, and book selections for the first part of 2013. All are welcome. For more information contact Jennifer Marsh, 703-779-0042 or jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com.

**Monday Morning Stitchers**

**Monday, December 17, 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!**

**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!

**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).

Leesburg Presbyterian Church Preschool Board and Teachers  
Are Proud to Sponsor

### Parents Night Out!

Friday, December 7th  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxing evening walking through downtown Leesburg for First Friday, have dinner and Christmas shop! Downtown merchants are open until 9:00! This is open to all LPC members and LPCP students and their siblings. Cost is \$15 for one child or \$25 for the family. Please look for the sign up sheet in the lower level of the education wing. You must complete a child information form for each child attending.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Thiel at (703) 771-1461 or etthiel@lpcva.org

Proceeds to go to "Team Shawn" to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

### Preschool Particulars for December

Joy to the World...for our wonderful Preschool, staff and families! It is truly a time to celebrate everyone involved and praise God for it! December 7<sup>th</sup> is Parent's Night Out and December 19<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Program. The programs will be at 10 and 1:30. Have a blessed Christmas and may your new year be filled with love and joy!



**December 2012**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>11/25</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00	<b>11/26</b>	<b>11/27</b> Moms Alive! 9:00	<b>11/28</b> Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	<b>11/29</b>	<b>11/30</b>	<b>12/1</b>
<b>2</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Alternative Christmas Faire Youth Group Christmas Party 5:30	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Moms Alive! 9:00 Deacons 7:00	<b>5</b> Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	<b>6</b> Circle One 10:00	<b>7</b> Preschool Parents Night Out	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Christmas Dinner 5&7 Cantata 6:15	<b>10</b> Mission & Witness 7:00 Preschool Board 7:00	<b>11</b> Moms Alive! 9:00	<b>12</b> Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Book Club 9:30	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Living Nativity 6, 6:30, 7	<b>17</b> Monday Morning Stitchers 11:00	<b>18</b> Moms Alive! 9:00 Session 7:30	<b>19</b> Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00	<b>24</b> Worship 5:00, 7:00, 11:00	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship 11:00	<b>31</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/2</b> Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 7:30 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:30	<b>1/3</b> Circle One 10:00	<b>1/4</b> Office Open 9-12	<b>1/5</b>



Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Deborah Parsons  
207 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
Phone: 703-777-4163  
E-mail: [office@lpcva.org](mailto:office@lpcva.org)  
[www.lpcva.org](http://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](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.

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207 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

