



# 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)

September 2013

## A Note from the Pastor

I am so excited to announce the birth of the **LPC Parish Plan** that will be inaugurated by the Board of Deacons during Sunday worship on **September 1<sup>st</sup>**. The Board of Deacons has designed the Parish Plan in order to strengthen their pastoral care of our congregation and to create more intimate communities of belonging, compassion, and service within our growing congregation.



Deacon Dennis Welsh divided the congregation into 10 geographically oriented parishes of 18-24 LPC households. Each parish will be served by a deacon who will be responsible for the pastoral oversight of members of her/his parish. For instance, when a family within a parish welcomes a new baby or experiences a crisis of sickness or death, their parish deacon will coordinate the pastoral care and practical assistance that would be helpful. When an individual or family joins the church, immediately they are connected to a smaller group within the church and to a deacon who can be a much needed contact person with their new church family.

Additionally, each Deacon and her/his parish will be responsible for one Second Sunday Feast during the year. Depending on their size, some parishes will be combined to host this SSF.

As previously stated, the LPC Parish Plan will be “unfurled” during worship on September 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have an abbreviated liturgy Sunday so that there will be plenty of time for the congregation to break out in the 10 parish groups who will meet and greet in designated places throughout the church building! Everyone will then return to the sanctuary for the closing hymn and benediction.

Here are the names of the 10 parishes—can you guess which one you will be in?

Ashburn  
Catocin Creek  
Country Club  
Goose Creek  
Potomac  
Leesburg North  
Leesburg South  
Loudoun East  
Loudoun West  
Woodlea

Discover your parish on Sunday, September 1 when we celebrate the gifts of Christian community!

Grace and peace,

Debbie

## FALL MANNA 2013

### *From Farm to Table: Nourishing The Body & the Spirit*

or

### *Women's Bible Study – Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman by Beth Moore*

Wednesday evenings: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6

6:00pm – 6:40 pm Supper

6:40 pm – 7:30 PM Program

Childcare provided

**Farm to Table:** We are going to have a series of presenters who will speak about food, eating, and nourishment from a variety of perspectives. Our own Bud Elliot will speak about ministry to the hungry in Loudoun County in the work of Loudoun Interfaith Relief, and Tyler Brown of Baltimore's REAL FOOD FARM will talk to us about the urban farm movement and mission. We will have a speaker from the Society of St. Andrew, a group devoted to gleaning left-over fruits and vegetables and someone from the "eat local" movement in Loudoun County.

**Esther:** A 9 week in-depth women's Bible study of Esther - a profile in courage. Join Beth in a very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance as she peels back the layers of history and shows how very contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to our lives today. 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. Facilitated by Nicole Morganthau. Sign-up is necessary so that we can order sufficient number of workbooks. Cost: \$10.00. E-mail office @lpcva.org or revdeb@lpcva.org in order to register.

We have a great MANNA team coordinated by Sandy Gasperini to prepare the meals and they will welcome others who would like to make this short term commitment.

## Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

### **Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles**

**Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 p.m.**

Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles will start the 2013-2014 year at 6:30 p.m. with a pot luck supper at the home of Faye Vance on Wednesday, Sept. 4th. We will get our study books at that time. This year's theme will be "An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy." All women of the church, regardless of age, are invited to join us in fellowship. Contact Shirley Pearson (703-777-7425) for information and Faye Vance (540-338-5103) for directions.

### **Circle One**

**Thursday, September 5, 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, September 9, 9:30 a.m.**

We will be changing our meeting days from second Fridays to second Mondays this Fall, with a couple exceptions to account for Columbus Day and Veterans Day. 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.

**September 9** *The Fallen Snow* by John J. Kelley

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

**November 4** (first Monday) *Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah

### **Moms Alive!**

**Friday, September 27, 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.

## The Capital Campaign at Work

The Property Committee is happy to report that replacement of most of the brick sidewalks around the church will begin the week of August 26 by the firm of Oasis Landscaping. The work, which is expected to take approximately 45 days, will be broken into three different phases to minimize the impact on the congregation and the pre-school. Phase 1 will include the east sidewalk from the pre-school entrance to the main office entrance. Phase 2 will be from the west parking lot to the sanctuary courtyard, and Phase 3 will be the sanctuary courtyard out to the Town sidewalk. During construction approximately 14 parking spaces in the east parking lot (near the corner of Market and Liberty Streets) will be used for material and equipment storage. If the church lot is full on Sundays, there is

additional parking across the street at the Balch Library. There will be construction updates in the weekly church e-mail so everyone will know when church access through different entrances will be restricted. The new sidewalks will be constructed of traditional clay bricks that are similar in color to the existing walk and sanctuary. The walks will be widened in several areas and the steps in the walk to the west parking area will be removed to provide greater safety and accessibility. We look forward to this major church capital improvement and thank everyone who contributed to the Capital Campaign to make this work possible. If you have any questions or concerns during the construction, please contact Keith Markel or Randy Jackson.

## 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 and Doug Sweeney. Rev. Debbie Persons serves as Moderator and Jim Barnes serves as Clerk.

Among recent actions of the Session:

- ◆ Accepted into membership Chris Kopp by Letter of Transfer from Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church, Gerrardstown, W. Va., and Mandy Kopp by Reaffirmation of Faith;
- ◆ Approved the baptism of Sophia Belle Hoff in September 2013;
- ◆ Elected elders Frank Gasperini and Keith Markel to represent the session on LPC's Nominating Committee for 2013-2014;
- ◆ Accepted, with regret and appreciation for her service to the church, the resignation of Elder Rebecca Caprio from the session;
- ◆ Approved a motion of the Re-Visioning Worship Task Force that the LPC Choir sing only at the 11:00 service beginning in September;
- ◆ Authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$60,000 for the brick sidewalk project with the Property Committee's preferred vendor; and
- ◆ Authorized construction of a permanent cross that is similar in design and appearance to the temporary cross, and accepted Brad Brown's offer to build the cross.

The session recently offered commendations for:

- ◆ Joan Elliott, Sharon Schmidt and the other Deacons for their hard work in organizing the highly successful church picnic;
- ◆ Nancy Vanzandt and Elaine Thiel for their outstanding leadership of the LPC Preschool;
- ◆ The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for its ongoing dedication and perseverance in their search for an Associate Pastor for Christian Formation;
- ◆ Mary Paige Rodgers for sharing her musical gifts during worship;
- ◆ Juli Barnes and the Vacation Bible School volunteers for their hard work resulting in a very successful program again this year;
- ◆ Joan Elliott, Nancy Vanzandt, Jane Wallace and Cindy Hollister for stepping up to help the Aronson family after Ron's death and helping make arrangements for the memorial service; and
- ◆ Dana Huntley for doing an outstanding job as guest preacher.

## LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY – Habitat for Humanity Inter-faith Build October 19th and November 2nd

Leesburg Presbyterian Church has been invited to participate in a wonderful local mission project: the building of a house in the village of St. Louis near Middleburg with local folks representing a variety of faiths – Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian. We've had good response so far and have room for a few more volunteers.

All skill levels are needed and Habitat site managers are happy to train you. You can work one day or both.

**Interested? Tell Pastor Debbie, call Kathi Stone at (703) 777-7194, call or email church office at (703) 777-4163, office@lpcva.org**

### Offering Updates

There are many ways and opportunities to help meet the needs of many of the residents of Loudoun. The following information show how we are doing.

**Loaves and Fishes Offering**, received on August 4, 2013, was 98 pounds of food taken to Interfaith Relief. Since January, 2013, 1147 pounds of food has been taken to IFR to be shared with those who hunger in Loudoun. The next Loaves and Fishes Offering is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you all for making a difference.

As you know the schools are reopening soon and there are many students in need of school supplies. There is a marked box for “**School Supplies**” available for your use. If you haven't gone shopping yet for your students, please feel free to pick up some extras.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the “**Peacemaking Offering**” will be received. This is a special offering done in conjunction with PC(USA). 25% of this offering will be designated for use in Loudoun. There will be more information at a later time.

We have received many gifts and we have shared many. Thank you for your giving.

### Grace-to-Go

Sunday, September 1

Again in July our Grace to Go volunteers were busy helping with this local mission. Our volunteers prepared 178 chicken dinners for distribution in the community and they did it with only half the ovens working. Shredding, chopping, buttering, seasoning, filling containers and washing dishes, LPC volunteers are one group of cheerful workers. Thanks so much to Kathi Stone, Nancy Blaine, Shirley Pearson, Helen Taylor, Florence O'Hey, Taylor and Kim Vigil, Beth Shockley, Connie and John Niccolls, Sharon Schmidt and Diane DuCharm. Our next volunteer opportunity for Grace to Go will be Sunday, September 1 at Deli South from 1:30-3:30. As always, you can sign up on the bulletin board in the Church Hallway or just email the Frakers at [fraker1@verizon.net](mailto:fraker1@verizon.net).

### ESL Update

#### Volunteers Needed as New Classes Form

Last spring, Leesburg Presbyterian Church members joined with volunteers from Leesburg United Methodist Church next door to teach and administer an English as a Second Language program. LPC team members' contributions have helped greatly with the program and its successes.

Initial registration for fall classes will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at LUMC. Classes are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 PM to 9 PM September 17 through November 19. The spring term begins after the winter holidays.

Volunteers are indeed welcome. Commitment may be flexible and is open to different age levels, for there will be three levels of instruction. One-on-one opportunities exist also.

There is no requirement of prior teaching, just an interest in helping persons from different cultural backgrounds learn and improve usage of English. In fact, one may visit during the sessions to see what occurs and enjoy the interaction.

For further information, please contact Jane Sawyer, Tom Chase, or the office.

## Children's Church School Kick-off

Children's Church School will begin Sunday, September 8 at 9:45. We'd like to welcome two new teachers, Lynn Colavita and Nicole Morgenthau! This year we will also be including 6th grade in our Sunday morning program.

### Wee Believers- 3s, 4s, and Kindergarten

Teaching Team: Lynn Colavita, Nicole Lutz, Suzy Masini, Lisa Weikel  
Meets in downstairs preschool room

### Young Believers- 1st - 3rd grade

Teaching Team: Angela Helge, Kim Hovda, Nicole Morgenthau, Holly Rhodes  
Meets upstairs in Room 3

### Presbylievers- 4th - 6th grade

Teaching Team: Juli Barnes, Heidi Renner  
Meets upstairs in Room 2

## Calling All Acolytes

If you are going into grades 4 thru 8 YOU are eligible to become an acolyte at LPC! There are applications outside the church office. Please fill one out and turn it in no later than Thursday, September 19. There will be an instructional meeting after the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 22. Lunch will be provided. Our awesome acolytes from last year will also be present to help you learn how to handle all sorts of situations, first hand!!! Apply now!!!



## Blessing of the Backpacks

September 8 at the 11:00 Worship Service

Preschool through elementary aged children are welcome to kickoff fall by bringing their school backpacks for this special event.

## THANK YOU!

Vacation Bible School, held July 14 - 18 at LPC, was a great success! Sixty-three children gathered here each evening for a week of faith and fun. THANK YOU so much to the 25 LPC adult and youth volunteers who made this all happen!



## Sunday Morning Adult Education begins!

We have two stimulating study series scheduled for the Fall:

### *The Reformation and How It Came to America*

September 8 - October 6

Taught by Dana Huntley

### *Introduction to the Prophets*

October 20 - November 10

Taught by John Sawyer

## Preschool Particulars

LPC Preschool is very excited to begin preparing for our new school year. We still have a few openings in our afternoon PreK class.



Deadline for next Newsletter is September 16.

## Congratulations Graduate!



Stephen Shockley graduated Magna Cum Laude from Longwood University with a major in physical and health education teacher education (PHETE). He was named to the Big South Basketball All-Academic Team and was a member of both the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Epsilon Kappa Honor Societies, while being named Longwood's 2012-13 Male Henry I. Willett Scholar-Athlete Award winner. Stephen will return to Longwood in the fall to begin a Master's Degree program in physical and health education teacher education.

## Pledged Giving

We know summer is a busy time for everyone and it is easy to fall behind on pledge payments. If you need to know where you stand on your giving, please contact Julie Koochagian, Business Manager.

Thanks in advance for getting caught up in your planned giving.

*The Finance and Stewardship Committee*

Dear Leesburg Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you so much for the wedding gifts. We love the his and her cooking tools and matching aprons! Also, thank you for welcoming us into the church family. We love leading music and sharing in worship and fellowship with everyone.  
Love,  
*Alana and Eric*



Dear Church Family,  
It has been my honor and pleasure to serve our Lord together as Director of Music for the last eleven years. I am grateful for the faithful service of so many as we have worked together in providing music for worship and special services. I was deeply moved by the outpouring of love expressed on Sunday August 18, my last Sunday with you. My prayers go with you as the congregation seeks God's guidance in His vision for strengthening the church. I appreciate your prayers for my family as well in the days to come.  
Blessings to you,  
*Becky Sweet*



## Memories

I am 78 years of age and I have many pleasant memories of the Leesburg Presbyterian Church and the Town of Leesburg,

Going back 68+ years, I remember pumping the organ for Miss Janney. The church at that time did not have an electric organ. You had to pump air into the bellows so the organ could be played. I remember the Christmas programs and many of the church members – the Clemens, The Hutchinsons, The Klines, The Keneads, The Greens, Mrs. Lowenbach and Bobby, The Gibsons, The Orrs and so many more. My sister who is 90 was married at the Leesburg Presbyterian Church.

On Saturday, all the farmers would come to the town and the streets were crowded until late evening. In the summer months there would be community church services on the court house yard. Lights were strung from tree to tree. Leesburg had no stop light, no fast food and a slower pace of living.

I could go on and on. I cherish those memories of my childhood.

George "Ed" Wertz

**September 2013**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship 10:00 Congregational Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Deacons 7:00	<b>4</b> Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30	<b>5</b> Circle One 10:00	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45 Youth Group 5:30	<b>9</b> Book Club 9:30 Preschool Board 7:00 M&W Ctte 7:00	<b>10</b> Worship Ctte 7:30 E&M Ctte 7:00	<b>11</b> KLB Choir Practice 7:30	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Believing & Belonging 12:00 Youth Group 5:30	<b>16</b> Monday Morning Stichters 11:00 Newsletter deadline	<b>17</b> Session 7:30	<b>18</b> Choir Practice 7:30	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth Group 5:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Mail Newsletter CE Ctte	<b>25</b> Choir Practice 7:30	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Moms Alive! 9:00	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth Group 5:30	<b>30</b>	<b>10/1</b>	<b>10/2</b> Choir Practice 7:30	<b>10/3</b>	<b>10/4</b>	<b>10/5</b>

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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, 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.