



# 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

December/January 2013



## Looking Toward Bethlehem 2013 Advent/Christmas Celebration at LPC

### **December 1: First Sunday of Advent**

*The Prophets Look Toward Bethlehem*

**Adult Studies Class:** *A Pilgrim's Experience of Bethlehem* – Rev. Ruth Everhart, author of *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land*, will sell and autograph books.

**Children's Church School Advent Celebration**

### **December 8: Second Sunday of Advent**

*Mary Looks Toward Bethlehem*

**Alternative Giving Christmas Faire** in Fellowship Hall after both services

**Adult Studies Class:** *Getting to Know the New Hymnal! Part 1* Debbie Parsons

**Pageant Rehearsal**

**Youth Group Christmas Party**

### **December 15: Third Sunday of Advent**

*Joseph Looks Toward Bethlehem*

**Adult Studies Class:** *Getting to Know the New Hymnal! Part 2* Debbie Parsons

**Church Christmas Dinner and All Church Christmas Pageant**

5:00 First Seating

6:00 *The All Church Christmas Pageant!*

7:00 Second Seating

### **December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*The Angels & Shepherds Look Toward Bethlehem*

No Church School

### **December 24: Christmas Eve**

*God Looks Toward Bethlehem*

5:00 pm Family Candlelight Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion

### **December 30**

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



**'Tis the Season of Giving...Outside the "Gift Wrapped" Box!  
 2013 Alternative Christmas Faire  
 Sunday, December 8  
 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 have decided to focus on Youth activities within the local and international communities. We will provide opportunities to learn more about important and impactful missions to educate, support, and nurture our youth. You will have the chance to make gifts to support:



- Backpack Buddies Weekend Meals**
- R.O.C.K. (Recreational Outreach to Community Kids in Leesburg)**
- Mobile Hope Health Services in Loudoun County**
- Support for Orphans in Njoro, Kenya (with NY Ave Presbyterian Church in DC)**
- Support for School Children in Cuba (books and other needs in conjunction with our trip to Cuba in February)**



Haven't been to an alternative fair before? It's simple! Come to the Fellowship Hall on December 8, 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.

**Annual Christmas Dinner**



*Sunday, December 15  
 First Seating: 5:00 PM  
 Second Seating: 7:00 PM  
 Christmas Pageant: 6:15 PM*



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 or by making a \$15 contribution.

This year we are assigning food categories by last name to make sure we have a deliciously balanced meal! Please see the list below for alphabetical food assignments for the dinner. If you are interested in bringing a cooked/ carved turkey and gravy in lieu of your assigned side dish please indicate on the bulletin sign-up sheet. Please bring a dish that will serve 12 so that we have sufficient quantities to feed everyone.

If your last name starts with **A-N**, please bring a salad or vegetable to share.  
 If your last name starts with **M-Z**, please bring a dessert to share.

Look in the bulletin for more details and sign up to attend. See you there!

**Christmas Joy Offering  
 Sunday, December 22**

Each year, we at LPC participate in four special offerings with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Christmas Joy Offering is divided between two special groups designated by PC(USA). The first half of this offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to support active and retired church workers with unexpected needs they cannot meet. The second half of this offering is given in support of Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges to support education.

During the month of December, you will find information in the bulletin regarding this special giving. Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps many people.

Deadline for next Newsletter is January 20.

## Hanging of the Greens

Could you share some of your Saturday morning with us on either December 7th or December 14th to hang the greens both inside and outside of the church and to put up the large wooden stable in the front lawn?

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM: hang outdoor wreath, hang greens on sign and light pole and reconstruct the stable on the front lawn.

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM: hang the greens in the sanctuary.

Please e-mail the church office at office@lpcva.org if you can help on either of these days!

Thank you.  
Worship Committee



## Children's Church School Gathering December 1, 9:45

Sunday, December 1st, all church school classes will gather in The Meeting Room for an Advent Celebration. We will have music with Trish, a Bible story and will be decorating Advent Wreaths for our classrooms.



## WANTED: Children for the All Church Christmas Pageant December 15, 6:15 pm

This year's program to be presented between the two seatings of the Church Christmas Dinner is an All Church Christmas Pageant. Everyone will have a part! Those sitting in the pews will form the Singing Choir and the Speaking Choir as a narrator tells the story of Christmas with our children enacting the story.

We need children (kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade) to play the parts of Joseph, Mary, Wise Men, angels and shepherds. There will be **ONE REHEARSAL on December 8<sup>th</sup>**, after the 11:00 service. Parts will be assigned at the practice. If your child would like to participate, please bring him/her to the sanctuary on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12: 15 p.m.!

Our pre-schoolers will have a part that night in the pageant, but they will not have to attend rehearsal.

See you at rehearsal!

## 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 Jim Johnson by Reaffirmation of Faith, and Jo Anne Wright by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Richardson, TX.
- ◆ Authorized the baptism of Hagan Folk, son of Chris and Shana Folk, in January 2014.
- ◆ Authorized spending \$27,000 from church trust funds for repair and maintenance of the organ.

The session recently offered commendations for:

- ◆ Pat Kropp for her leadership and dedication to the monthly Loaves and Fishes offering, which has collected almost one ton of food for people in need in 2013;
- ◆ Eric Nanz for his organization of music, recruiting people and equipping them to lead music during the acoustic worship services; and
- ◆ The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for their perseverance and faithfulness in continuing with the process of searching for an associate pastor.



## Welcome New LPC Members!

**Chris and Mandy Kopp** moved to historic Linden Hill in Leesburg from Fairfax last March. Chris is a director at Freddie Mac. Mandy, a former special education teacher, is at home with their two children, Ethan (6) and Adelina (3). They learned about LPC from Chris's aunt, Trish Fraker.



**John and Nancy Burgess** joined LPC last spring, finding it friendly and welcoming. Nancy is a retired elementary school principal with 3 children and 5 grandsons. She enjoys gardening and reading. John is a retired IT professional who founded a computer company. He has two sons and loves to ride his bicycle. John and Nancy love living in Leesburg.

**Nicole and Spencer Morgenthau** moved to Leesburg from Portland, Oregon with their two children, Cassidy (3) and Finn (21 months). They had previously lived in Virginia Beach and attended the First Lutheran Church of Norfolk. Spencer works in downtown Leesburg as an energy efficiency expert and Nicole owns the Finch Sewing Studio, also in Leesburg. They enjoy walking the W&OD Trail and spending family time with their two young children.



**Lindsay and Jeff Owen** were married in June 2009 at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. Lindsay is from Potomac, Maryland, and Jeff is originally from



Chesterfield, Virginia. They moved to Broadlands, VA in July 2012. Lindsay and Jeff have 2 children, Yeats Valentine (almost 3), and Tucker (1). Lindsay is a stay-at-home Mom and sits on the board of the Mom's Club of Ashburn; she does professional photography, specializing in newborns, children, families, and engagements. Jeff is a Managing Director at Accenture Federal Services, with a commute into D.C. every weekday. The Owens love traveling, entertaining in their home, and are golf & social members at River Creek Country Club in Leesburg. Lindsay and Jeff are extremely excited about being members at Leesburg Presbyterian, and look forward to meeting & making many friends within the church.

### 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. Sliders and brats will be grilled, so please bring a drink of your choosing and/or a side dish to share. Please RSVP to Cindy in the office at 703-777-4163 or office@lpcva.org by Tuesday, December 10th so we can have an approximate headcount. Watch for an email with more details.



Leesburg Presbyterian Church Preschool Board and Teachers are Proud to Sponsor

### Team Shawn Parents Night Out! Friday, December 6, 6:00-8:30

Enjoy a relaxing evening walking through downtown Leesburg for First Friday and enjoy a dinner night out! Downtown merchants are open until 9!

This is open to all LPC members and LPCP students and their siblings. Cost is \$15.00 for one child and \$25.00 for the family. Please look for the sign up sheet outside the four's room. You must complete a child information form for each child attending. Availability is limited! If you have any questions please contact Elaine Thiel or Gloria Haines at (703) 771-1461 or etthiel@lpcva.org.

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

## Grace to Go

LPC Grace to Go volunteers were busy again on November 3, making 151 complete chicken dinners for distribution to Leesburg families in need. Thank you to our volunteers, Helen Taylor, Shirley Pearson, Kim and Taylor Vigil, Linda Gibson, Nancy Blaine, Diane DuCharm, Kathi Stone, Carol Williams, Trish and Jeff Fraker and our newest volunteers, Michael, Lynne, Andrew and Ben Wright. Our next Grace to Go volunteer opportunity will be Sunday, January 5, at Deli South from 1:30-3:30. As always, you can email the Frakers at [fraker1@verizon.net](mailto:fraker1@verizon.net) or sign up on the bulletin board in the Church hallway to volunteer.

## Loaves and Fishes

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, is the last Loaves and Fishes gathering of food for Loudoun Interfaith Relief for 2013. As of November, we have been able to take 1,638 pounds of non-perishable food items to LIF. Perhaps we could strive to gather 362 pounds of food and make it a TON for the year?!? Last May, we collected 262, so it is possible!



With the holidays coming, we might add boxed stuffing and mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy and items to make a dessert.

## Preschool News



Exciting things are happening in our preschool! We enjoyed our Thanksgiving Feast & Fellowship and stuffed stockings for the Loudoun County Coalition "Friends Helping Friends." We were

able to deliver over 100 stockings this season for children in need. We are also busy practicing with Miss Ginger for our Christmas musical performances in December. We are thankful this holiday season for our wonderful preschool families who share their precious children with us! We are very blessed.

## Interfaith Build Part II

On a sunny November 2, LPC volunteers Beth Hood, Mike McKinney, David Mowbray, Chuck Rodgers, Wynne Rodgers, as well as John Evans who is both an LPC visitor and the Resource Development Coordinator with Loudoun Habitat for Humanity, refurbished a house in the village of St. Louis in Middleburg. Working alongside the new homeowner, volunteers weeded and mulched the gardens, power washed the porches, scrubbed siding, and painted the exterior trim on the house and shed. Although Habitat provided pizza for lunch, neighbors surprised the crew by delivering a delicious meal of chicken and rice (complete with tea afterwards!) to thank our hard-working volunteers.



Neighbors bring lunch to LPC volunteers John Evans, Kathi Stone, David Mowbray, Mike McKinney, Chuck Rodgers, and Wynne Rodgers.



Volunteers paint the trim on the front of the house.

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund Replenished

I am grateful for the generosity of so many who replenished the Pastor's Discretionary Fund with their donations. I receive weekly requests from those who need assistance with rent, utility bills, prescription drug costs, food and gas and during the winter months, the needs are most pressing. Your generosity allows this church to respond with Christ-like compassion to those in need. Thank you.

Pastor Debbie

## 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 Capital Building Campaign, the associate pastor position or donations to the operating budget. You may make charitable contributions by cash or check or you may 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

Please notify Julie Koochagian, Business Manager, of your gift so that the transaction can be tracked and full credit given on your annual giving statement. You may also contact Steve Potter or Doug Sweeney, members of the Finance Committee with any questions regarding this type of donation.

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

## Circles, Studies, and Fellowship Groups

### Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles will have their annual Christmas party at Faye Vance's home on our regular meeting night of Wednesday, December 4th. Bring a \$10.00 or under gift for an Chinese gift exchange. Our January meeting will take place on the SECOND Wednesday, January 8th, 2014.

### Circle One

Thursday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 2, 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, December 9, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, January 13, 9:30 a.m.

The LPC Book Club will have a gathering on Monday, December 9 at 9:30 to enjoy Christmas cookies and discuss *Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah. This is available through the Loudoun County library system, including as an e-book. Feel free to join us, whether or not you've been a part of book club in the past. We will also decide on future reading selections, so bring your ideas. Our first meeting of 2014 will be January 13. We will discuss *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Hadden. Please contact Jennifer Marsh for more information.

### Moms Alive!

Friday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.

Friday, January 24, 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.

### Monday Morning Stitchers

Monday, December 16, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 20, 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)

Deadline for next Newsletter is January 20.



## Calendar of Events

Sun, Dec. 1	8:30 a.m.	Worship	Wed, Jan. 1		Office Closed
	9:45 a.m.	Church School	Thurs, Jan. 2	10:00 a.m.	Circle One
	11:00 a.m.	Worship	Sun, Jan. 5	8:30 a.m.	Worship
Mon, Dec. 2	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte		9:45 a.m.	Church School
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study		11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tues, Dec. 3	7:30 p.m.	Deacons		5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wed, Dec. 4	6:30 p.m.	Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles	Mon, Jan. 6	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice	Tues, Jan. 7	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
Thurs, Dec. 5	10:00 a.m.	Circle One	Wed, Jan. 8	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Fri, Dec. 6	6:00 p.m.	Parents' Night Out		7:30 p.m.	Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles
Sun, Dec. 8	8:30 a.m.	Worship	Sun, Jan. 12	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Church School		9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship		11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:15 p.m.	Pageant Rehearsal		5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group Party	Mon, Jan. 13	9:30 a.m.	Book Club
Mon, Dec. 9	9:30 a.m.	Book Club		7:00 p.m.	Preschool Board
	7:00 p.m.	Preschool Board		7:00 p.m.	Mission & Witness Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Mission & Witness Committee		7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte
	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte	Tues, Jan. 14	7:00 p.m.	Evangelism & Worship Committee
Tues, Dec. 10	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee		7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
Wed, Dec. 11	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice	Wed, Jan. 15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Fri, Dec. 13	9:00 a.m.	Moms Alive!	Sun, Jan. 19	8:30 a.m.	Worship
Sun, Dec. 15	8:30 a.m.	Worship		9:45 a.m.	Church School
	9:45 a.m.	Church School		11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship		5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Dinner	Mon, Jan. 20	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers
Mon, Dec 16	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers		7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte
	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte	Tues, Jan. 21	7:30 p.m.	Session
Tues, Dec. 17	7:30 p.m.	Session	Wed, Jan. 22	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wed, Dec. 18	7:80 p.m.	Choir Practice	Sun, Jan. 26	8:30 a.m.	Worship
Sun, Dec. 22	8:30 a.m.	Worship		9:45 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship		11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tues, Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.	Family Worship		5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship	Mon, Jan. 27	7:00 p.m.	Assoc. Pastor Nom. Ctte
	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship w/ Communion	Tues, Jan. 28	7:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee
Wed, Dec. 25		Office Closed	Wed, Jan. 29	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thurs, Dec 26		Office Closed			
Sun, Dec. 29	11:00 a.m.	Worship			

## Overflowing Generosity 2014 Stewardship Campaign Update



Thank you to all who have pledged for 2014! Of the 106 pledging units in 2013, to date we have received 48 pledges, along with another 22 new pledges for a total of \$305,290. Our goal for 2014 is \$376,100.

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."

Thank you for your generous contributions to the ministry of Leesburg Presbyterian Church; we appreciate your thoughtful participation in reaching our goal for 2014!

Deadline for next Newsletter is January 20.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
207 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #4  
Leesburg, VA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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, 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.