



Leacock Communicator

Volume 51, Number 1

February 2011

Notes from the Manse

Last week I read that we had entered the coldest days of the year, and given the recent temperatures, I'm not about to argue the point. It was 0° when I woke up this morning and I caught my breath when I headed out for my run this afternoon, so cold was it. The ground is hard; the chill is so deep that a covering of snow lays on some of the back roads. And given all the sorrows, the trials that too many members of this church have recently faced, the cold, the long nights somehow seem to fit.

But the days are getting longer. And beneath the frozen ground life is ready to reawaken. At the core of our faith is the conviction that life always is stronger than death, that darkness cannot overcome the light, and that in fellowship, with Christ, with each other, we find a love, a warmth, that dispels even the most persistent cold. From the prophets to Paul to Revelation is a vision of a new creation, of a recreation of all the world so that it will at last be what it was intended to be by its Creator.

We, the members of the Body of Christ, are called upon to live according to this hope, this promise. Leacock, like any church, faces a variety of challenges. However, we need, even in this winter time, to plant seeds, trusting that they will in days to come bear fruit. The Session, at its retreat this year, resolved that building fellowship would be its focus this year, fellowship for youth, for young families, for men and women. To this end, we are considering new directions for Sunday School and seeking to enhance many of our programs, encouraging and making it possible for more people to participate. In many ways, some of our youth are taking a lead in this. Kelly Erikson is serving on a Presbytery committee; Katherine Boas has joined one of Leacock's committees; and Valerie Ruhl is working to develop a vital youth mission program—it already has its own budget line. Mission, in general, is expanding its efforts, as Leacock will now offer a Community Meal each month. New ideas for worship are being explored, for both regular services, as well as special services throughout the year.

I left the Session retreat excited, for I sensed a great deal of energy and determination in the group. And this is so important. It can be easy, too easy, endlessly to find fault with people or programs. But growth, life, only come with hard work. And the simple fact is that if we are to do all we want to do here at Leacock, we are going to need help. This year, you may well be approached by someone, asking you to join a committee, to help plan a meal, to sing in the choir, to teach a class, or help organize a youth event. We hope that you will prayerfully consider that request; even more, we hope that you will not wait to be asked, that you will volunteer in some way. New beginnings require a good bit of faith, a belief in each other and, most important, a belief in the One it's all for in the first place, our Lord. *Colossians* 1:48 says of Christ, "He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might have first place in everything." Our Lord needs to be the beginning and the end of everything we do. And I believe, no, I know, that if He is, there is nothing good we cannot achieve here at Leacock.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

**LECTIONARY
FOR FEBRUARY**

- Feb 6 (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20
- Feb 13 (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37
- Feb 20 (7th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48
- Feb 27 (8th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131:1-3
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

PRAYER FAMILIES

- Feb 6 David Babb
- Feb 13 Ralph and Ruth Bair
- Feb 20 Eugene and Nancy Bare
- Feb 27 Ellen Barnes



**SOUPER BOWL
ALL READY FOR THE
SOUPER BOWL?**

No, that's not a spelling error. Whether or not you are shopping for a Super Bowl party, pick up a can (or 2) of ready-to-serve soup, chili, or stew to donate to the Food Bank on Souper (Super?) Bowl Sunday, February 6.

You may also bring your canned donation on February 13 or give a \$ donation to Karen Homsher.

THANKS!

SUPPORT FUND

Our Family Support fund is again running low! To remind you, the Family Support fund helps local families that have children with immediate needs. Such needs have included clothing and shoes, appointments and medication, food and heat.

Needs are identified by specific staff members of the Pequea Valley elementary school who are

familiar with the family's situation. Please consider contributing to this very worthy, local cause.

Donations can be given to Kris Shirk, or dropped in the offering plate during the church service. Be sure to mark your donation "Family Support."



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday February 13 after the 9:30am service (only one service that day).

A luncheon will be served after the meeting in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Booths will be set up by each session committee to present their plans and activities for the coming year. Feel free to ask questions and make suggestions.

Help will be needed to set up for the meal and to clean up afterward. A signup sheet will be in the Narthex. Thank you.



SESSION JANUARY SNIPPETS

Braving a cold, windy winter night, the Session met in January to continue the work they began at their all day retreat January 8 at Camp Donegal. One of the main focuses for this year will be our youth and Christian Education program. The following elders are providing leadership for Session committees:

Worship: Skip Brackbill, chairperson; Darwin Eshleman

Stewardship: Matt McClarigan, chairperson; Steve Boas

Community Outreach: Karen Shue, chairperson; Emily Birch

Congregational Life: Lauren Appel, chairperson; Esta Fisher

Christian Education: Dianne Yuninger, chairperson; John Shirk

Mission: Nick Lopez, chairperson; Marie Glass

Business matters included:

- o The Annual Meeting for the receiving of annual reports and electing the Church Nominating Committee was

set for Sunday February 13 following the 9:30 service of worship. A Fellowship Luncheon will follow this meeting, and Session Committees will each display information about the work in which they are involved.

- o Designating the two “outer rooms” on the third floor for the youth group with the youth, under the direction of John Shirk, refurbishing them.
- o Emergency Fund Administrators appointed: Rev. Birch, Carol Shearer, Dianne Yuninger
- o Boy Scout Recognition Sunday February 6
- o Girl Scout Recognition Sunday March 13
- o Community Outreach Committee is overseeing this year’s Souper Bowl Sunday, February 6, and collecting canned soups, stews and chili for the local Food Bank.
- o Community Meals have been scheduled for the last Thursday of each month this year with the exception of November when the meal will be held the second Thursday.
- o Old Leacock Hymn Sings are

scheduled for May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, and October 2.

- o Communion will be celebrated February 27, April 21, June 12, September 4, October 2, and November 20.
- o Sundays with only one service of worship scheduled are: February 13, Annual Meeting; September 4, Old Leacock Sunday; Fall Congregational Meeting (date to be announced); December 25; and January 1, 2012.



FLOWERS

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays February 20 or February 27 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.

“Having a dream is what keeps you alive. Overcoming the challenges makes life worth living.”

- Mary Tyler Moore



Caring Meal Ministry

MISSION COMMITTEE JANUARY 2011

The Mission Committee will be serving a community meal once every month starting in 2011. The tentative dates are the fourth Thursday of every month, except for November 10 (the second Thursday) and December 29 (the fifth Thursday).

The Mission Committee will have sign up sheets in the Narthex on the Sunday two weeks before each meal. Please check the Sunday bulletin for signup. We will need help with cooking, setup, serving, cleanup, desserts, etc.

The Mission Committee will be reaching out to the other churches in the community who have expressed interest in helping with our meals.

They might supply food, help in preparation, serving, cleanup, or possibly even just use our church to serve a meal, or they might hold it in their church. Details will be worked out, and the congregation will be informed via the Newsletter.

We would like to thank all who have donated their time, food and service with the past meals reaching out in God's Mission to those in need.

God Bless
Mission Committee

CAMP DONEGAL

Camps and retreats have long been defining experiences designed to encourage persons to hear, respond, and develop as spiritual leaders called to inspire and lead others in lives of love. Camps and retreats have as part of their purpose the responsibility to assist persons in connecting the learning and transformation at camp or on a retreat with new ways of being and living in the world when they return. According to The Presbyterian Panel, the most common setting for a singular spiritual growth experience is a camp. The second most common setting is a retreat.

Our Biblical and Church roots affirm the values of occasional retreats for spiritual renewal and relationships. There were three annual worship/renewal pilgrimages expected of God's people; Passover in the spring, The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) in the

summer, and The Festival of Booths in the fall. On the American frontier, week-long camp meetings became the primary annual spiritual pilgrimage. Gradually these were replaced by annual revival services and church camp programs. God has often chosen to use retreats, revivals, pilgrimages, and even the "wilderness" to inspire, call, instruct, and/or renew people for service.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), along with The Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association, invites your congregation to rejoice, remember, pray for, and visit one of your camps or conference centers. As Presbyterians, and people of the Reformed faith, we are called to participate in active ministry. Our camp and conference centers manifest that active ministry and nurture that calling.

Camp Donegal, Donegal Presbytery's camp, served over 2,700 people last year, nearly 300 of them during the summer program. To learn more about Camp Donegal, pick up a summer brochure, available at the back of the sanctuary or visit the camp online at www.CampDonegal.org.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT - WITH FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH DECEMBER 2010

| | December Weekly Offering | | December Expenses | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> |
| December 5 | \$4,219 | | | |
| December 12 | \$4,984 | | | |
| December 19 | \$5,417 | | | |
| December 24 | \$761 | | | |
| December 26 | \$2,595 | | | |
| December 30 | <u>\$1,709</u> | | | |
| | | | | |
| Monthly Total | \$19,685 | \$25,702 | \$23,631 | \$28,693 |
| Final for Year | \$215,094 | \$211,803 | \$218,699 | \$218,296 |

Budget Tracking Through December

| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Yearly Budget | \$250,125 | \$250,022 |
| Final Expenses | \$218,699 | \$218,296 |
| % of Budget Spent | 87.44% | 87.31% |

Leacock's end-of-year financial report is a bit mixed. Of concern is the fact that expenses exceeded income by \$3,605. However, that was less than 2009's deficit of \$6,493. Much of the shortfall this year may have come from the decrease in December's giving from 2009 to 2010. Last year, we made several announcements at worship services in December asking people to consider increased giving so that the budget might be balanced, and maybe we should have this year as well. Still, yearly giving increased in 2010 by over \$3,000, so Leacock's members are to be commended for their generosity to their church during tough economic times.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AT HOME MEMBERS

- Feb 6 Mildred Carpenter
1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601

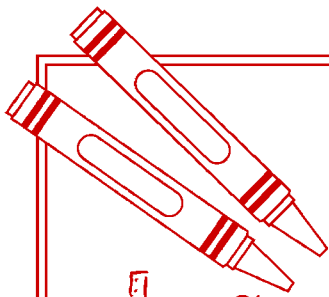
- Feb 28 Miriam Latshaw
1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601

Lancaster General Hospital has scheduled community blood drives throughout the year at the following locations. Won't you consider giving blood - every pint is very important!

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE 2010

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| July | | |
| Thursday, Feb 3 | Lampeter Strasburg HS | 8:00am to 2:00pm |
| Wednesday, Feb 9 | White Horse Fire Company | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Thursday, Feb 10 | Bird-in-Hand Fire Company | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Wednesday, Feb 23 | Kinzer Fire Company | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavilion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00am to 7:30pm. For more information call 544-0170.



Just for **KIDS**



Special Signs

There are signs along the road to point us on our way. If you saw the signs below, would you know what they mean?

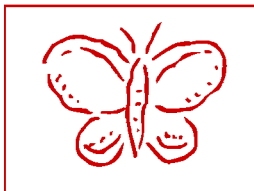
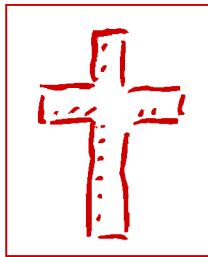
Use the code to find the answers.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | E | H | L | O | R | T | W |
| C | 1 | F | I | N | P | 3 | S |
| U | 4 | Y | | | | | |



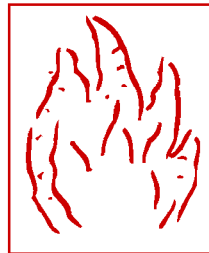
2 3 3 1

1 2 3 2 3 4 2 1 2



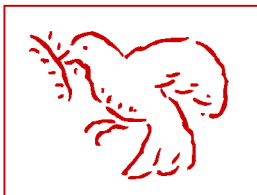
2 1 4 2 2 1 1

3 1 3 4 3 3 1 1 4 2 3 2



2 3 2 4

3 1 1 1 1



3 3 2 3 2 4

YOUTH

Christian Education is planning to refurbish the two outer rooms on the third floor into a youth lounge. Activities and Bible studies may be planned for different nights to, hopefully, accommodate youth with busy schedules.

We are looking for help from the congregation. Helpful donations include such things as a ping pong table, foosball table, air hockey, TV, used game cube or x box, small microwave oven, large rugs, etc.

Please contact John or Kris Shirk (687-8243) for more information.

MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Mail to -
Vicki Burkins, Editor
557 Galan Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601

Email to -
vicki.burkins@gmail.com

Drop off at -
The church office

The deadline for articles is February 17, 2011

ANSWER
Christian, Hope, Peace, Holy Spirit, New Life, Resurrection



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We are happy to welcome three new members of the community outreach committee this month: Katherine Boas, Mary Alice High, and Fran Sattazahn, and we are excited about our plans for the year.

As mentioned last year, we are planning to expand our lecture series to encompass more of the year than just the fall, and we hope to find some topics that might be of more interest to our youth (Hint. Hint. Suggestions from youth welcome).

We are going to focus our music offerings on one concert this year, and, again, we welcome suggestions from anyone about local bands they might like to see.

Our new initiative is to start offering babysitting services to the community. Please let us know if you might be interested in babysitting.

We plan to continue our work with The Factory and the Food Bank,

and if you are looking for opportunities to lend a helping hand, we would be more than glad to have your help. You can contact Karen Homsher.

Our community book discussion group continues to meet, and in March, we will be discussing *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski.

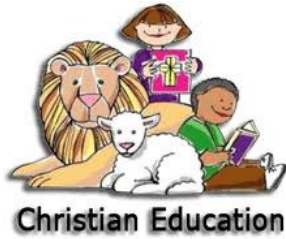
We will also continue to enjoy board game night the last Tuesday of every month, except in January and February, when we will meet the last Sunday of the month instead (your pastor and his wife, who love board game night, have an obligation on Tuesday evenings for the next eight weeks to attend puppy training classes. We are

sure that everyone wants a well-behaved dog residing in the manse and is willing to change board game night in order to achieve that). Please join us and bring a game you love to play.

We are also collecting canned soups, stews, and chilies for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 6. We're asking every member of the church to try to bring one canned good. Think of all we can collect for the food bank if everyone does so.

Emily Birch
Community Outreach
Committee Correspondent





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
 “By providing a broad range of age-appropriate opportunities in study, fellowship, teaching, and mentoring, the Christian Education Committee is constantly striving to provide a nurturing atmosphere where each member of our church family can grow in the Presbyterian faith, learn to live out their relationship with God, and reach out to others.”

Session Manual,(2009)

As your C.E. Committee begins 2011, we covet your prayers for guidance, creativity, and patience. We have much to do, but we realize that we cannot do anything without our Lord’s presence in our midst and your intentional support. Members of the committee, thus far, are elders Dianne Yuninger and John Shirk, Bob and Emily Birch, Lois Eshleman, and Vicki Burkins.

Anyone interested in helping us with suggestions and ideas should contact committee members or BETTER YET volunteer to join us. (That is, if we don’t catch you first!) We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If evenings do not fit your schedule, we

may break into sub committees which will have flexible meeting times.

Be sure to check out our display in Fellowship Hall during the luncheon following the Annual Meeting February 13.

Dianne Yuninger,
 Committee Chairperson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

*Sunday January 30
 and Sunday February 27*
 6:30 p.m. Board Game Night
 all are welcome
 Bring a game you love to play

Sunday March 20 7:00pm
 Book discussion group
 meets to discuss
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle
 by David Wroblewski



TRUSTEES NOTES

The Trustees are looking into painting the Sunday School rooms. One has already been finished. The Fellowship Hall restroom is to be painted also.

I am finding heat left on after meetings in different areas of the church. PLEASE turn off these sources if you turn on for your meetings. We are trying to stay within our budget for all this but everyone has to help.

Like always if you see something that needs the Trustees attention, please tell one of us. Thank you all.

Trustee President
 Dave Berkhimer

leacockpres.org

Our web address is www.leacockpres.org

You Can Find

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ <i>Leacock Communicator</i> ☺ Cancellations ☺ Usher and Nursery Schedule ☺ The Church Calendar ☺ Pictures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ The Church Staff ☺ Directions ☺ Times of the Services ☺ Church Officers ☺ Links to More Information |
|---|---|

NEWS OF THE PRESBYTERY



Session members, on a rotating basis, attend Presbytery meetings, along with me. However, that means only a handful of people at Leacock are witnessing what goes on at those meetings, and the Session felt it important to share that information with the congregation. And so I now will write reports covering the issues that our Presbytery and denomination are currently addressing. At the most recent meeting, Kris Gerling, and Rev. Michael Wilson were installed as Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively. Rev. Jane DeFord finished her term as Moderator and will now assume the same position for the Council, a body that is a lot like a Session for Presbytery. Charlie Gross's call to the position of Associate Presbytery Executive was formally ended and a severance package was approved. Charlie's work for the Presbytery was celebrated both through words and gifts.

Ann Hatfield, whom I referred to in my sermon on Sunday, read her statement of faith as part of her examination for ordination. She handed questions asked of her with grace and she promises to be a wonderful pastor. I gave a presentation for the Department of Presbytery that I chair, Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation (Kelly Erikson is on the committee!), with particular attention given to the Presbytery Prayer and Mission gathering that will be held at Leacock on April 9th of this year. The Presbytery's Mission Budget for the year, including that for Camp Donegal, was approved.

The Presbytery also dealt with some rather difficult matters. A new policy was approved that provides a way for churches that are considering leaving the denomination to explore their concerns with representatives from Presbytery, with the hope that reconciliation can be achieved. If it cannot, a procedure is in place for their leaving in an amicable way, while for a period of time continuing to meet their financial obligations to Presbytery. While this policy was being developed, it was used with Bellevue church. The problems Bellevue had could not be resolved, and therefore, the church was sadly dismissed so they could join the Evangelical Presbyterian denomination.

There was also before the body a proposal sent to all presbyteries from the General Assembly to revise the Form of Government portion of our denomination's constitution. The new Form of Government, or nFOG as it was called, sought to be more concise and to allow more flexibility in individual presbyteries. However, many felt it weakened something that was working and shifted authority in a problematic way, and so it was defeated. Finally, there was a panel discussion on an Amendment, 10-A, coming from the General Assembly to the presbyteries, that changes the language describing requirements for the ordination of ministers, elders, and deacons. The amendment will be voted on at the March meeting.

Well, that's a lot of information! If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can further explore what is going on in our denomination at the websites for the Presbytery (donegalpby.com) and the PCUSA (www.pcusa.org). And pick up a copy of *Presbyterians Today* at the back of the sanctuary—it has good articles on matters involving our denomination.

Rev. Robert W. Birch



Dear Leacock Family,

We want to thank you all so much for all your prayers and concerns for our Dad and Husband, Earl Miller during his recent hospital stay after the holidays. It was quite an ordeal for us all, and we are all very thankful for God's grace to help him heal as each day goes by.

We especially wish to thank Rev. John Ferguson who took the time to stop by the hospital and visit with Dad and also to Rev. Birch for calling and seeing how he was doing.

Thanks also to Robert and Johanna Gingher for their visit to Dad in the hospital and for the beautiful flowers and the warm blanket the Presbyterian Women of the church made for Dad. The flowers really helped to brighten up his room.

Thanks also to everyone for the prayers and cards you sent him. It really meant a lot to us all for your caring.

Dad is back home and feeling a little better as each day goes by.

Chuck's Mom recently had surgery and is home recuperating. She thanks you all for the pretty

flowers and for keeping her in your prayers.

Thanks again to you all for everything. We are looking forward to things getting back to normal again for awhile.

Blessings,
Jacqueline Miller &
Chuck & Kathy
Chad & Kristen Ankney

To Dear Members of Leacock,

To thank all of you who sent me lovely cards for the holiday season. So great to be remembered.

Have a good year in 2011.
Miriam Keneagy

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to Betty Sowers for the visit and lovely prayer shawl.

Thanks to Bob and Margie Hershey for the visit and poinsettia.

Thanks to Bob for all his phone calls.

Thanks to everyone for their phone calls, cards, and prayers which are very much appreciated.

Ron and Sue Funk

Dear Leacock Family,

Malcolm and I want to thank you for the love and support we received during the Christmas season. It was difficult losing our son, Michael and carrying on with the usual festivities. Many thanks to all who sent cards, and remembered us in prayer. A special thanks to Rev. Birch for keeping in constant touch with me to see how I was doing. I appreciated his calls and concern very much.

We appreciated the poinsettias that Ed Margerum brought to us, and the carolers and the delicious cookies they brought.

God Bless
Malcolm and June Stannard

Leacock Church,

Many thanks for the beautiful poinsettia that arrived at my door. A nice surprise.

May God Bless
Jean Beane

Greetings,

Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. In their middle was a single yellow rose which caught my eye immediately. I appreciate also receiving the copy of the sermon Jack brings. Best wishes to one and all.

Blessings,
Valaria Ferguson

**RESPONSIBILITIES AT LEACOCK CHURCH
FEBRUARY**

NURSERY

If you are unable to serve as a volunteer, PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE SCHEDULED ON ANOTHER SUNDAY. Call the office secretary, 687-6619, so she can make the bulletin change. THANK YOU!

| | | |
|----------|-------|--|
| Feb 6 | 8:00 | Janet Huffman |
| | 10:30 | John and Katelyn Shirk |
| Feb 13 | 9:30 | Alba and Harrison Ruhl |
| Feb 20 | 8:00 | Tom and Vicki Burkins |
| | 10:30 | Bob and Margie Hershey |
| Feb 27 | 8:00 | Nick and Evie Lopez |
| | 10:30 | Bob and Ethan Brackbill |
| | | |
| March 6 | 8:00 | Loretta McClarigan |
| | 10:30 | Deb Beane and Craig Keenan |
| March 13 | 8:00 | Ellen Barnes |
| | 10:30 | Janice Homsher and Mary Alice High |
| March 20 | 8:00 | Dick Miller |
| | 10:30 | Kathy and Chuck Ankney |
| March 27 | 8:00 | Scott and Cathy Shenk |
| | 10:30 | Darwin Eshleman and Stephanie Sweigart |



DEACON RESPONSIBILITIES

(Transportation for School House Friends & Flower Deliveries)

February

Margie Hershey



USHERS

Donald Andrews, Head Usher
8:00 Service, (687-7878)

Ralph Homsher, Head Usher
10:30 Service, (442-4443)

PLEASE NOTE -- If you are unable to serve the month or part of the month you are scheduled for, please try to trade with someone else then contact the head usher. They will contact the church office. THANK YOU!

FEBRUARY

Eugene Bare
William Menges
Sharon Williams
Deborah Burkholder

Margie Hershey
Robert Hershey
Darwin Eshleman
Craig Keenan

MARCH

Deborah Sindall
Robert Sindall
Art Myers
David Homsher

Michael McLaughlin
Harrison Ruhl
Michael Ruhl
Valerie Ruhl

Calendar

LEACOCK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
3181 LINCOLN HIGHWAY EAST
PARADISE, PA 17562
Address Service Required

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #5
PARADISE, PA 17562



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