



Leacock Communicator

Volume 51, Number 2

March 2011

Notes from the Manse

“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?”—1 Thessalonians 3:9

As I mentioned in church on Sunday, Monday was Emily’s birthday. And, as a good husband, I try to make it a good day, to celebrate the life of such a wonderful woman, to show her how much I love her. But sometimes what makes a day special are the little things that come unexpectedly. On Saturday, I went out to get the mail and there, waiting for Emily, was a card from one of the members of the congregation. I hadn’t yet announced when her birthday was. However, someone had kept track; someone remembered, and I want to tell you, that card brought the brightest smile to Emily’s face. And it got me to thinking just how thankful both Emily and I are for this church, for you, who are the Body of Christ here in Paradise. As I thought about writing this, I realized it was still the week of Valentine’s Day. So, let this be my valentine to Leacock. Let it be my way of thanking God, just like Paul did for another congregation long ago, for all the joy Emily and I feel before God because of you.

First, I am grateful for the little and big kindnesses you show the two of us. As was the case with Emily just now, I don’t think a birthday or anniversary has passed without us receiving a call or a card, something that showed us, often when otherwise we were feeling a little beleaguered or overwhelmed, that someone remembered, someone cared. We thank you for the presents that surprise us around Christmas time. And certainly, the gift the congregation gives us on Christmas Eve is always one of the most precious we receive each year. That wonderful card and the cake on Pastor Appreciation Day—I could go on and on. Let me just say, that this congregation has welcomed two strangers from Connecticut into their lives, even with our love of snow and the Yankees. And it has made serving the Lord in this place both humbling and oh, so joyful.

But there are so many other things for which I am thankful. When people ask me about the church I serve, I always say that it is the kindest, warmest congregation I have ever known. Oh, I know, we all have our days; we all can get cranked up about this or that. But beneath the disagreements, there is always caring to be found, caring for this church, caring for each other. The phone calls, the visits, the prayer shawls—all of it makes a trying time a bit easier. And it can seem miraculous the way there always is enough food, enough folks to set up and clean up for one of our fellowship meals. We do not take pledges in the Fall, unlike any church I have ever known. Yet, each year we find the money to keep this church going. And then there are all those who answer God’s call to service, who have brought new forms of fellowship, who develop a rich and increasingly varied worship experience, who make it possible to break bread with our neighbors in the Community Meal, who care for our youth. And I thank God for our youth, so smart, so open, so curious! So, yes, I, we, are thankful, for you. May you too be thankful, for each other. In the words of Paul, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for that is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Rev. Robert W. Birch



**LECTIONARY
FOR MARCH**

- Mar 6 (Transfiguration of the Lord)
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2:1-12 or Psalm 99:1-9
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9
- Mar 9 (Ash Wednesday)
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Mar 13 (1st Sunday of Lent)
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32:1-11
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11
- Mar 20 (2nd Sunday of Lent)
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121:1-8
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17
- Mar 27 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95:1-11
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

STRESS RELIEF BOXES

It will soon be time to collect items to send to our young adults away at college and in the military. There will be a box in the Narthex from March 27 to April 10 for donations. Here are some ideas:

- ☺ Small individually wrapped snacks (cookies, candy, raisins, chips, bars, nuts, fruit chews, crackers, gum)
- ☺ Quarters for laundry
- ☺ Stamps
- ☺ Powdered drink mixes
- ☺ Aspirin
- ☺ Pens, Pencils, erasers
- ☺ Or anything you think they might like, as long as it fits in a shoebox. We will also welcome donations of money to cover the cost of mailing (donations may be given to Lauren Appel).

Thank you.

FLOWERS

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



PRAYER FAMILIES

- March 6 Jean Beane
- March 13 Kirk and Deborah Beane
- March 20 Troy and Danielle Beane
- March 27 Mary Beckett



LENTEN STUDY, 2011

Rev. Birch will again be leading a Study on Tuesday evenings during Lent, beginning March 15. We will be exploring what it means to be a congregation, to be in fellowship with each other in our walk of faith.

Rev. Birch will use Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* and scripture as the foundations for our discussions. But the goal will be to have all gathered reflect on how we can better be sisters and brothers of each other, of our Lord.

A light meal will be served at 6:00pm, with the study following.



**SESSION FEBRUARY
SNIPPETS**

Colleagues in work and ministry, the Session accomplished much during their February meeting, but they also shared times of laughter. (The Mission Committee’s having been inundated with frozen turkeys provided several lighthearted moments.) Business included:

- Approval of the Annual On-line Statistical Session Report sent to General Assembly.
- Plan to distribute the Annual Report a week prior to the Annual Meeting next year.
- Discussion of a letter the Mission Committee has mailed to all area churches explaining the Community Meal Program and inviting their help. Rev. Birch will ask the Trustees to check on insurance for such a venture.
- Discussion concerning the need for a chest freezer in the kitchen.
- Discussion about fund raising opportunities for the church

during the Paradise Tricentennial Celebration in 2012.

- If the way be clear, the Session will sign a contract with Bruner Organ Company for the rebuilding of our pipe organ. Information will be shared with the congregation March 6 and 13, with a time for feedback scheduled after both services March 20.
- The Youth Group has scheduled a Mardi Gras Party March 8.
- The Christian Education Committee will hold a dinner/discussion with parents of children from infants through high school March 19.
- The Session and Deacons will hold a combined meeting in March.

APRIL
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 March 24, 2011



A SCOUT IS REVERENT

The Boy Scouts of America was founded on February 8, 1910. The Girl Scouts of America was founded on March 12, 1912. Boy Scout Sunday was celebrated on February 6, and Girl Scout Sunday will be celebrated on March 13.

The Scout Sunday tradition began in the 1940s to make people in houses of worship more aware of scouting and to give scouts a chance to live out their pledge which includes “Duty to God.”

Wear your uniform (or any parts of it that fit) on Scout Sunday so you can be acknowledged.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

At the Feb. meeting of session, it was decided to proceed with the rebuilding of our pipe organ. A contract is being considered, but we would like to receive congregational feedback. During both services of worship on March 6th and 13th we will be explaining the size and scope of the rebuild. After each worship service on March 20th there will be a time to gather for comments, discussion and suggestions before we actually sign a contract. If we proceed, the actual repairs will begin in early 2012, but we would work on fund-raising prior to that.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT - WITH FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH JANUARY 2011

	January Weekly Offering		January Expenses	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
January 2	\$5,516			
January 9	\$6,762			
January 16	\$4,643			
January 23	\$4,228			
January 30	<u>\$3,346</u>			
Monthly Total	\$24,495	\$23,180	\$16,363	\$15,333
Year to Date	\$24,495	\$23,180	\$16,363	\$15,333

Budget Tracking Through January

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Yearly Budget	\$250,269	\$250,125
YTD Expenses	\$16,363	\$15,333
% of Budget Spent	6.54%	6.13%

Leacock has gotten off to a sound, encouraging start in terms of its finances this year. As you can see from the above numbers, the weekly offerings were up by over \$1,000 from last year—and there were the same number of Sundays in the month. Expenses were up as well, but we still brought in more money than we spent, by some \$8,000. And this was in a month with some snow to be taken care of and cold days that required a good bit of oil to be burned. So, again, we have begun the year as good stewards of our church. May we continue in this and all other ways to serve our Lord here at Leacock.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*Sunday February 27 and
Tuesday March 29*
6:30pm Board Game Night
all are welcome
Bring a game you love to play.

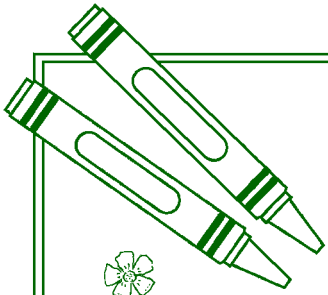
Sunday March 20
7:00pm Book Discussion Group
meets to discuss
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by
David Wroblewski.

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 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, Mar 1	Yoder's Market	1:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, Mar 2	HAC College	9:00am to 3:00pm
Thursday, Mar 3	Intercourse Fire Hall	1:30pm to 7:00pm
Tuesday, Mar 15	Bareville 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

Joyful Psalms



Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are joyful songs!
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

*Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares.
Read down the second column to see the sentence from Psalms.*

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

A				





Answer: _____ !



CAMP DONEGAL

You are the salt of the earth! S.A.L.T., or Service and Leadership Team, will give campers an opportunity to reach out in service, but also to develop leadership skills as individuals. Campers can expect to participate in local mission projects, but also to hone their skills as leaders through leadership building activities and hands-on experience with younger campers.

Participants will enjoy all regular camp activities such as Bible Study, swimming, campfires, and crafts. S.A.L.T.

Camp runs from July 17-22, costs \$415 per person, and is open to campers completing grades 7 through 12. This is just one of the many camping opportunities offered at Camp Donegal this summer.

For more information, pick up a summer brochure available at the back of the sanctuary or visit the camp online at www.CampDonegal.org.

Puzzle answer: Page 7

SATURDAY NIGHT FEST MARCH 19

FELLOWSHIP HALL 5:00 TO 8:00PM

Families with infants through high schoolers

Join us for a meal and discussion Babysitting provided



MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee will be serving a community meal once every month starting in 2011. The dates are the last Thursday

of every month, except for November 10, which is the second Thursday.

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

This month's meal is: turkey pot pie with brownies and fruit Jell-O for dessert.

The Mission Committee has reached out to the other churches in the community who have expressed interest in helping with our meals. We have not received any responses back as of this writing. If you know or have a friend or contact from any of the surrounding churches, please let Marie or Rich Glass know. These churches might supply food, help in preparation, serving, cleanup, or possibly even just use our church to serve a meal, or they might hold the meal in their church. Details will have to be worked out on this matter and we will keep the congregation informed via the church newsletter.

Lent begins Wednesday, March 9 and ends Saturday, April 23 this year. During that time we will receive the **One Great Hour Of Sharing offering**. Envelopes will be in the pews.

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



TRUSTEES NOTES

Mark your calendar for **Spring Church Workday on April 1**. We will be putting in screens, raking the yard, general cleaning everywhere. Old Leacock always needs raking before we can have Sunrise Service on Easter.

Come out and help keep your church properties looking good. Your Trustees are also in the process of getting the Sunday School rooms a new coat of paint. They need some brightening up.

If you see a need in the Church please tell one of your Trustees. Thank you all.

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President

MISSION GIVING PROFILE

Leacock is a giving church, and the Annual Report for 2010 only serves to emphasize this fact. As I worked to complete the Annual Statistical Report for General Assembly, I realized that to report our mission giving accurately, I had to do more than merely include budgeted General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery causes. Studying all financial reports yielded some impressive figures for a church Leacock's size. I will be the first to admit my figures are not accurate enough for an audit, but I believe they need to be shared with you.

- ✦ Total Giving to Local Mission (in the budget and beyond the budget) was \$14,864.
- ✦ Total giving to Validated Mission (defined as those causes encouraged by the denomination and including areas in the budget but also special offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.) was \$51,111.
- ✦ Total giving to Other Mission (such as CROP, Wycliffe, Haiti Relief, etc.) was \$10,669.

Where there is a need, the people of Leacock step up to help. Praise be to God.

Dianne Yuninger
Clerk of Session



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At its February meeting the C.E. Committee welcomed the following members: Arlene Brackbill, Emily and Bob Birch, Vicki and Tom Burkins, Lois Eshleman, Kelly Hartmann, and elders John Shirk and Dianne Yuninger. As a result of our brainstorming ways to revitalize C.E., we formulated our purpose for this year: **Dare to Move Forward with Patience and Humility.**

Emily and Bob Birch will help Kris and John Shirk and the Youth Group to plan a Mardi Gras Party for March 8 similar to the one held two years ago.

An Adult Ed Survey was available at the luncheon following the Annual Meeting, and the committee appreciates all those who took a few minutes to fill it out. However, to broaden our response area, we would like to give everyone the opportunity to fill out this survey. Copies will be available in the Narthex with the C.E. poster display.

Next month's agenda will include finalizing plans for March 19 and beginning to examine adult education, as well as exploring the possibility of putting Leacock on Facebook. If you have ideas to share about areas of Christian Education and nurture, please contact

any committee member.

We ask your continued prayers for us as we "dare to move forward" with God's grace.

Dianne Yuninger,
Committee Chairperson



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Thank you so much to all who helped make Souper Bowl Sunday such a success. We were so glad to see our boxes overflowing with canned goods. Your generosity was definitely appreciated.

As we move into March, we are beginning to plan our lecture series for the year and hope to have a fall concert.

We'd also like to thank all those who have agreed to stand at the welcome center on Sunday and welcome members and visitors alike. If you would be interested in being such a greeter, please let Emily Birch or Karen Shue know.

Emily Birch
Community Outreach
Committee Correspondent

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4
Blossom Hill Mennonite Church
333 Delp Road, Lancaster

The women of Chile invite us to consider and contemplate the question,
"How many loaves have you?"

10:30am Registration

11:00-11:45am Worship

12:00noon-1:30pm
South American Lunch

Cost \$10.00

Contact Arlene Brackbill (394-9996) if you would like to attend

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Monday, March 14 at the home of Janice Homsher.

On April 14, Valaria Ferguson has invited the group to meet at the Chapel at Ware Village in Oxford. All who are interested in joining the group in April should meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am to travel together to Oxford.

Praise the Lord!
ANSWER



Dear Leacock Family,

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, and especially for your prayers while in the hospital and since I came home.

A special thanks to Rev. Birch for his visits, we are so blessed to have a caring church family.

Ethel Danner

Dear Leacock Family,

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, beautiful sanctuary flowers, phone calls and delicious foods. All were very much appreciated.

Also, thanks to all the Christmas carolers and the delicious cookies they brought.

Many thanks to Bob and Emily for all their help, visits and caring things they have done for us and are still doing.

God Bless,
Warren and Marilyn
Brackbill

To All at Leacock Presbyterian,

Thank you for all of the thoughts and prayers that have come our way. Especially thanks to the knitters who created the beautiful prayer shawl. I use it all the time.

We feel the love and caring. We're taking each day a step at a time.

Sincerely,
Greg and Barb High
and Family

Dear Leacock Family,

Brian and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Leacock Presbyterian Church for your loving support during the past several months.

I will continue getting treatments of chemotherapy to try to kill the cancer. If I have a relapse, they may do a bone marrow transplant from the donor pool.

Thanks for your visits, cards and especially your prayers! May God Bless all of you!

Brian and Cheryl
Wassen

Dear Leacock Members,

We want to thank you for your prayers for Charles and I.

We appreciated the beautiful flowers you sent us.

In Christian Love,
Charles and Ruth Ann
Ankney
(Chuck's Parents)

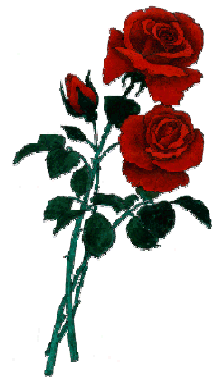
Dear Friends at Leacock,

Thank you so much for the evidences of your love and concern during the time of the illness and death of my brother, John Brackbill. Even tho my membership is no longer with your congregation, I will always be a part of you in my heart, and was so touched by the evidence that you regard me and my family in the same way.

Rev. Birch's visits to John, the memorable communion we shared with Bob and Dianne in John's room at hospice, the wonderful prayer shawl presented to me by Betty Sowers and Carol Shearer (and one other person whom I am sorry to say I forget) from the PW, and many other wonderful and grace-filled evidences of love and caring helped immeasurably to ease my grief and pain in an unbelievable time.

You truly manifest the love of Christ in the town of Paradise, and I look forward to future visits with you.

Evelyn B. Jarrett



**RESPONSIBILITIES AT LEACOCK CHURCH
MARCH AND APRIL**

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!

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	Cathy and Chuck Ankney
March 27	8:00	Scott and Cathy Shenk
	10:30	Darwin Eshleman and Stephanie Sweigart
April 3	8:00	Sue Funk
	10:30	Lauren Apple and Emily Birch
April 10	8:00	Deb Sindall
	10:30	Kris and Allison Shirk
April 17	8:00	Nancy Bare
	10:30	Kelly and Mike Hartman
April 24	9:30	Steve and Charlene Boas





DEACON RESPONSIBILITIES

(Transportation for School House Friends & Flower Deliveries)

March	Mary Lou Rubincam
April	Dorothy Wise

WELCOME CENTER

8:00AM	March	Tom Burkins
	April	Dick Miller
10:30AM	March 6	Betty & Gene Sowers
	March 13-27	Chuck, Kathy & Kristen Ankney
	April 3-10	Betty & Gene Sowers
	April 17-24	Steve, Charlene, Katherine, & Forrest Boas

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!

MARCH

Deborah Sindall
Robert Sindall
Art Myers
David Homsher

Michael McLaughlin
Harrison Ruhl
Michael Ruhl
Valerie Ruhl

APRIL

Peter Conway
Tom Burkins
Vicki Burkins
Ralph Shank

Dave Berkhimer
Carol Berkhimer
George Shue
Karen Shue

Please see separate icon
on the front page
for the Church
Calendar

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

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PARADISE, PA 17562



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