

Leacock Communicator

Volume 53, Number 2

March 2013

Notes from the Manse

How do we mark the seasons of our lives? Well, there are the seasons of the natural world, one of birth, then one of growth, one of harvest, one of death, and then one of birth again. But those are not universal markers—on the equator one month seems pretty much the same as all others. So, people learned early on to mark their years with holy days or seasons. Now, it's true holidays have come to mean something very different; I'm not quite sure how Labor Day, though important, is holy, and some have even proposed making the day after the Super Bowl a national holiday. But still there are holy seasons, and just this week we have entered one, Lent. The name itself is Anglo-Saxon and literally meant "long," though it came to refer to spring with its lengthening days. For Christians, it is a period covering some six weeks from Ash Wednesday to the night before Easter. Within most Western traditions, it consists of 40 days, with Sundays excluded, for every Sunday is a little Easter, a celebration of our Lord's resurrection. That it consists of 40 days is significant, for that number brings to mind a range of central biblical events, including the days and nights of the flood and the number of years Israel wandered in the wilderness on its way to the Promised Land. But most important, Lent's length echoes the days Jesus spent in the wilderness, preparing through a kind of testing, for his ministry. Now, we mark this season in our churches with the color purple, a sign that we are preparing for the King of kings. However, it is not a time of celebration; in fact, some churches remove all flowers to reflect that these are indeed wilderness days.

But all that is symbolism, and our faith insistently calls us not just to symbols and ideas, but rather to action, to deeds. It's worth noting that there actually is no mention of Lent in the Bible. In time, some came to claim that the apostles themselves celebrated this holy season, but there are no mentions of the practice for the first few centuries of the church. However, as people pored over Scripture, trying to understand with the help of the Holy Spirit what it taught, what it called us to, it seemed only fitting that the followers of Christ should enter the wilderness just as their Lord had. And so Lent began, a time of preparation, just as it had been for Jesus. We are preparing, of course, for Easter, the day when death in all its many forms was conquered, the day of grace triumphant. But we also are preparing, like our Lord, for ministry, for our work in helping to build the Kingdom. As with Jesus, we prepare through prayer and fasting.

For many over the years, the fasting has involved giving something up during these 40 days. But I'm often drawn to Matthew's words in 6:16-18, that our fast should be a private one, not something to win us praise for our piety. And remember what kind of fast Isaiah said the Lord chooses, a fast in which we fight injustice, we free the oppressed, we share our bread and homes and clothes with the needy, we stop speaking evil, pointing fingers at each other. All this sounds a bit like what, in *Matthew*, Jesus said brought blessing to the sheep when the Son of Man comes in glory. So, maybe the fasting in Lent is to remind us what we can do without and what is truly important. Maybe, in the end, Lent is really about taking something on, the work of bringing grace to a broken world. After all, what, according to *Micah*, does the Lord require of us, not just these 40 days, but always? To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God.

Rev. Robert W. Birch



LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

- Mar 3 (3rd Sunday in Lent) Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
- Mar 10 (4th Sunday in Lent) Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- Mar 17 (5th Sunday in Lent) Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8
- Mar 24 (6th Sunday in Lent Passion / Palm Sunday) *Liturgy of the Palms* Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *Liturgy of the Passion* Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
- Mar 25 (Monday of Holly Week) Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11

- Mar 26 (Tuesday of Holy Week) Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
- Mar 27 (Wednesday of Holy Week) Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32
- Mar 28 (Maundy Thursday) Exodus 12:1-4[5-10]11-14 Psalm 116:1-2,12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17,31b-35
- Mar 29 (Good Friday) Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42
- Mar 30 (Easter Vigil - A minimum of 3 Old Testament readings should be chosen. The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used.) Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 136:1-9,23-26 Genesis 7:1-5,11-18:8:6-18;9:8-13 Psalm 46 Genesis 22:1-18 Psalm 16 Exodus 14:10-31:15:20-21 Exodus 15:1b-13,17-18 Isaiah 55:1-11 Isaiah 12:2-6 Proverbs 8:1-8,19-21;9:4b-6 Psalm 19

Ezekiel 36:24-28 Psalm 42 and 43 Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 143 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 98 Romans 6:3-11 Psalm 114 Luke 24:1-12

Mar 31 (Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord) Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

PRAYER FAMILIES

Mar 3	Lauren McClarigan
Mar 10	Matthew McClarigan
Mar 17	Barton & Jennifer McElhany, Keegan, Finian
Mar 24	Gary & Muriel Meier
Mar 31	William & Jeanne Menges



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Mark your calendars now for VBS June 23 - 27 from 5:30 to 8:00pm. We will need volunteers and, of course, children and grandchildren. This week is always one filled with excitement and praise.

WOMEN OF LEACOCK BIBLE STUDY

The Monday Sunrise Bible Study which meets the first Monday of the month will meet March 4 as planned, but in April we will meet on April 8, the second Monday. The study for March for both the Monday and Tuesday Bible study will be lesson six, *The Elders*, focusing on 1 Peter 5:1-11 and 2 John.

The Thursday morning study group will be on lesson seven in March, *The Children*, looking at 1 John 2:1-15, 29-3:10 and 5:1-21.

All women are welcome: 7:30am first Monday, 7:30pm third Tuesday, 9:30am second Thursday, a day and time for almost everyone. Monday/Tuesday meet at the church, Thursday's group meets in someone's home to be announced in the bulletin or call Arlene Brackbill for location (394-9996).



LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR

What a beautiful way to usher in Holy Week! The LVC Concert Choir is including Leacock on its 77th Annual Spring Tour with a concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 23 at 7:00pm.

This 81-voice ensemble includes Leacock's own Stephan Englehart.

Their program entitled, *With Cheerful Voice* will include choral works from around the world, both sacred and secular. Be sure to put this event on your calendar, invite others, and enjoy a special Lenten blessing. (A free will offering will be contributed to our Organ fund.)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The study of World Religions led by Rev. Birch continues to grow as lively discussion relates what is studied to our walk of faith.

Even if you have not yet attended this class, there is room for you. No prior attendance or reading required!

Come and join us in the library at 9:15am (You may even bring your coffee or tea with you.)



FLOWERS

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday March 10 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.

TEACH US TO PRAY-A LENTEN STUDY ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus' disciples noticed how often he set aside time for prayer, and eventually they asked him how to pray. Maybe they didn't think their prayers were quite right. Maybe they thought they didn't know the words to capture all they wanted to say to God.

Whatever the reason, they asked Jesus for help, and in response he gave them the prayer we know as the Lord's. We say it every week. But do we say them sometimes without thinking about what the words mean. We have begun a Lenten Study in which we explore together the prayer Jesus taught us to say. We begin with a light meal and then work our way through this prayer, in the process reflecting on what prayer in general means.

We gather together on the following days at 6:00pm—March 7, 14, and 19. Come join us, even if you can't make every session.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our work so far in the new year has been very "family oriented" as we've been getting better acquainted with the Congregational Life Committee to learn how best to complement each other's role in our church life.

The long-awaited birth of our Caring Families program took place on February 17. It was enjoyable, well-attended, and an auspicious beginning to what we pray is a healthy addition to our church life. If you couldn't be there, you will be receiving information through the mail.

At present, we are working on a "suggestion box" to provide a better way for our church family to communicate with members of the boards.

Our most delightful news is that we are hosting an appearance of the Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir - of which our own Stephan Englehart is a member - in March. Be sure to find the full article on the concert in this newsletter. MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Monday, March 4 - 7:30am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, March 7 - 6:00pm Lenten Study

Sunday, March 10 Easter Plant Orders Due

Thursday, March 14 - 9:30am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, March 14 - 6:00pm Lenten Study

Tuesday, March 19 - 6:00pm Lenten Study

Tuesday, March 19 - 7:30pm Women's Bible Study

> Saturday, March 23 Church Work Day

Saturday March 23 - 7:00pm LVC Concert Choir

Tuesday, March 26 - 7:30pm Session/Deacon Meeting

> Sunday, March 31 6:45am Easter Sunrise Service Old Leacock 8:00am Easter Breakfast Fellowship Hall 9:30am Easter Worship Paradise

June 23 - June 27 VBS 5:30 - 8:00pm

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

First, I'd like to thank Esta Fisher for the **terrific** role she played in leading the Congregational Life Committee this past year. As the months go by, I'm finding out the many necessary duties as the chairperson.

I've realized if the signup sheets aren't completed, the chairperson automatically volunteers. I can honestly say I was guilty of passing by the signup sheets thinking I would see what was needed at a later date. Most of the time I forgot as soon as I walked out the church door. Don't be like me, **sooner is better than later**.

I would like to give the kitchen a good cleaning so please make sure you remove your containers and personal belongings.

Congregational Life and Community Outreach will be working close together on several occasions. If you have any interest in journeying with us, please contact Sharon Williams (768-3856) or Karen Homsher (687-6469). With new faces comes new ideas. I'm sure you will enjoy the fellowship.

> Thank You, Sharon Williams Chair Congregational Life

MISSION COMMITTEE The *One Great Hour of Sharing*

offering will be collected through the Lenten season with envelopes in the pews for your offering.

The Mission Committee looks back to what was done in the past and hopes to improve on reaching out to our local community while continuing the monthly meal. The March meal will be: baked chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, green beans (we used up the ones we had, thank goodness), fruit salad, breads and desserts donated by Gap Weis market. Check for signup sheets in the Narthex. We would again like to thank the congregation for their continued support - without you, we couldn't do it.

We have taken on a new task of reaching out to a local neighbor who needs assistance. She lives just a stone's throw from our church along the highway. Leacock has joined in the assistance with Grace Point, The Factory Youth Ministries, Impact Ministries, and Paradise Township to try to improve her living conditions. We may be helping with such things as cleaning, painting, carpentry work, plumbing, and electrical repairs. If you wish to help, please contact a member of the Mission Committee and let us know what skill you might bring to assist us in this ministry.

One of our missionaries, The Trimbles, will end their service in July. The Mission Committee is looking for a place to redirect what Leacock has committed to that ministry. The Trimbles have made suggestions that we will be looking into as well as others being considered. We ask for your prayers and guidance in this undertaking.

> Blessings, Mission Committee

BOOK AND A MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

The Leacock Book and a movie discussion group will meet on Sunday, March 3, at 5:30pm for pizza and a discussion of the book *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver.

All are welcome, whether you've read the book or not.



CENTERING PRAYER

It's happening mid-week, 7:30am in the Paradise sanctuary. Join us.

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to cooperate with this gift. It is an attempt to present the teachings of earlier times in an updated form and to put a certain order and regularity into it. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; it simply puts other kinds of prayer into a new and fuller perspective. During time of prayer we consent to God's presence and action within. At other times our attention moves outward to discover God's presence everywhere.

It is not a technique.

It is not a relaxation exercise, thought it may refresh.

It is not a charismatic gift.

It is not a para-psychological experience.

It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

It is an exercise of faith, hope, and love.

It is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion.

It habituates us to the language of God which is silence.

Any questions may be directed to Marie Brackbill (768-8470)



ATTENTION PARENTS

Sunday School for children ages two through high school is alive and well.

We just need your children to make it vibrant.

Carol Shearer has weekly lessons and activities for our youngest ones.

Dianne Yuninger teaches grades one through five using the *We Believe Curriculum*, filed with Biblicallybased lessons that are relevant to elementary age experiences.

Lois Eshleman leads grades six through eight in a study exploring the *Christian Life for Junior Highs*.

Emily Birch has senior high kids exploring *Lectionary* texts.

Give your kids that extra nudge Sunday and have them join us.

Just a note, on those Sundays we have only one service of worship, there is no Sunday School.

If you think you're too small to make a difference, you haven't been in bed with a mosquito.

Anita Roddick

The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone else solve theirs.

TRUSTEE TALK

Yes it's that time again to start thinking about spring, so won't you please mark your calendars and come out to help spruce up your church for Easter Sunday?

Spring work day will be March 23, and there will be mulching, cleaning, painting, and a lot more to do. We are sure we can find just the right job that you can help with.

A light breakfast will be served, so we hope to see a lot of you at 8:00am Saturday, March 23.

We all have very busy schedules so if you can't make it on this date, there is a list in the Narthex; and if you would like to pick a task and work on it when it will better suit your schedule, please feel free to sign your name beside the task you will be doing.

While we are all looking forward to spring being right around the corner, we all know that no one can trust a ground hog!

So please make sure that you turn down the heat if you have turned it up for your function. Please also make sure that lights are turned out when you are done in that area. Please treat our church like you would your home and try to conserve our energy to help keep our ever increasing bills down.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our building fund.

Everything needs taken care of, and we have a major task at hand with putting a new roof on the manse. With every heavy rain, the roof leaks into the bathroom ceiling, so after we replace the roof for \$6,989.00, we will have to have the ceiling in the upstairs bathroom repaired.

Thank you and have a Great Easter!

Your Leacock Trustees



CARING FAMILIES

I just wanted, yet again, to thank all those members of community outreach, deacons, and congregational life who helped make Caring Family Night such a success. I'd also like to thank all those of you who came and enjoyed the evening. What a turnout! And what a fantastic offering of food we had.

If you weren't able to make it, beginning Sunday, March 3, there will be envelopes in the Narthex with your name, and inside, you will find the list with your family members. Remember your family is all about Christian unity, Christian care, and Christian love. Reach out to each other (and also have fun! I think we proved at the dinner that we can have a lot of fun with each other).

> Emily Birch Caring Family Coordinator



STEWARDSHIP REPORT - FINANCIAL UPDATE JANUARY 2013

	Offering January		Expens	ses January
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	2013	2012
Monthly Total	\$14,627	\$18,202	\$14,637	\$15,488
Year-to-Date	\$14,627	\$18,202	\$14,637	\$15,488

Budget Tracking Through January

	2013	<u>2012</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$251,276	\$247,355
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$14,627	\$15,488
% of Budget Spent	5.82%	6.26%

At first glance, this first month of 2013 doesn't look impressive in comparison to January's offering total of last year, but in addition to the offerings, there was \$1,143 given to special funds, specifically the Building and Facilities Fund and the Organ Fund. Both of these are very important, as we still need to finish paying off loans for the organ, and we are facing a relatively large project in replacing the very old and leaking manse roof.

Our expenses for the month are in line with the offering, which is good news, but in looking at what we need to meet our budget, we are starting off the year behind.

If we divide the total budget for the year by twelve months, we need to receive an average of \$20,939 each month. It is important to understand that while we have been able to meet our operational budget, the giving to Benevolence suffers when we are behind. Funding for Benevolence is a percentage of the offering, and is separated to be used toward the Ministry to Others. For example, the total planned Benevolence budget for 2013 is \$57,000, which is 22.68% of the total budget. Out of our January offering, 22.68% will be provided to Benevolence, a total of \$3,317. Ideally, we would be giving \$4,750 to Benevolence each month.

Without a doubt, we have our work cut out for us this coming year, but it is good work and the potential we have to help others is huge!

Leacock is a generous and talented congregation; we can be of one mind in helping those in need of our community and of the world.

Thank you all from the Stewardship Committee



Whether you think you can, or you can't, you are usually right.

Henry Ford Auto Manufacturer

A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier. Tom Stoppard British playwright

YOUTH GROUP

Under the leadership of Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, the youth have an exciting late winter and spring planned. Having raised money at the Caring Family Night with their delicious baked goods, they are looking forward to a spring retreat and possible mission projects.

On the agenda are a spaghetti dinner and a pancake breakfast for the public, and, of course, the annual Easter Breakfast.

The Youth are also pursuing a mentoring/grandparenting program with older members of the congregation. Stay tuned for details.

Finally, don't forget the Youth Auction - need some spring cleaning or gardening done? Contact Emily (687-7734) or Charlene (768-3599), and they will set you up with a youth volunteer.



Answer on Page 11

FEBRUARY SESSION SNIPPETS

At the February Session Meeting, elders shared in the work of Leacock with thoughtful discussion and prayerful decisions. The following items were part of the business conducted;

- Appointment of Dianne
 Yuninger as Clerk of Session for 2013
- Approval of the Clerk's Statistical Report for General Assembly
- Rev. Birch reported he has contacted area ministers and is working on establishing a Paradise Ministerium
- Updating outside sign at Old Leacock was assigned to the Worship Committee
- Approval of purchase of an Executive Card at Costco for members to use when buying items for church events.
 Members needing to use the card may sign it out in the church office.
- Scheduling of VBS for June 23

 June 27 from 5:30 8:00pm, coordinated by Marie
 Brackbill, Lois Eshleman, Jenny Keenan, and Dianne
 Yuninger
- Approval of Youth Retreat for late spring or early summer
- Approval of initiating a

Church Suggestion Box under the direction of Congregational Life/Community Outreach Committee

- Concurring with the Trustee
 recommendation to contract
 with Sam S. Smucker for
 replacing the manse roof
- Setting Easter Sunday schedule as follows: Sunrise Service -6:45am; Easter Breakfast 8:00am; Easter Worship 9:30am
- Designating April Special Offering for the Organ Fund
- Referring location of the Organ
 Plaque to the Decoration Task
 Force
- Approval of transfer of \$12,000 from the PW Treasury to be used in refurbishing the church kitchen

- Approval of having a fifth elder when Communion is celebrated who will serve those volunteering in the Nursery and God's Place
- Personnel Committee

 Managements Team
 Supervisors: Pastor Stewardship and Worship
 Committee Chairs; Indoor and
 Outdoor Sextons Pastor and
 Trustee President; Secretary Pastor and Clerk of Session;
 Church Treasurer Stewardship Chairperson and
 Trustee President; Organist Pastor and Worship Committee
 Chairperson
- Personnel Committee
 Chairperson for 2013 is Karen
 Homsher
- Next scheduled Session Meeting is with the Deacons





Dear Leacock Family,

Thank you for your loving support through cards, flowers, prayer shawls, and kind encouraging words for my family and myself during Doug's illness and passing.

Reverend Birch's support for my family during this difficult time was unbelievable. He knew all the right words to say to each of us.

As I struggle to find myself, I know I can count on all of you. Thank you for your love.

Sincerely, Mary Alice High and Family Dear Friends at Leacock Presbyterian, Thank you for your recent gift of 27 gift cards this past holiday season. I truly appreciate your generous gift.

I thank you for rising above your own concerns and reaching out to help end homelessness for mothers and children in our community.

> Thank you, Francesca J. Crane Executive Director, Bridge of Hope

Dear Church Family,

Many, many thanks to all of you for the visits, phone calls, cards, love, and concern shown to us during Harold's hospital stay and recovery at home. The abounding prayers were felt as God's Spirit calmed and comforted us both. And the beautiful prayer shawl brought to the hospital serves as a daily reminder of the power of prayer.

Being part of this church family is a blessing beyond words. Thank you all.

Dianne and Harold Yuninger

RESPONSIBILITES AT LEACOCK CHURCH MARCH & APRIL 2013

NURSERY

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

March 3	8:00 10:30	Karen Boyer David & Carol Berkhimer
March 10	8:00 10:30	Scott Shenk Donald Fieldsa & Christy Taub
March 17	8:00 10:30	Janet Huffman Michele & Lea Lichty
March 24	9:30 ONE SERVI	Sean & Maureen Carney CE
March 31	9:30 ONE SERVI	Craig Keenan & Charlene Boas CE
Apr 7	8:00 10:30	Tom & Vicki Burkins Johanna Gingher & Sharon Williams
Apr 14	8:00 10:30	Tracy Dippner Mike & Valerie Ruhl
Apr 21	8:00 10:30	Ellen Barnes Lauren & Ruth Anne Appel
Apr 28	8:00 10:30	Taryn Shenk Mike & Kelly Hartmann

sin, and on Easter day He rose again!

ANSWER: God gave us Jesus Christ, His Son, the holy, loving righteous one. He died to save us all from

USHERS MARCH & APRIL 2013

Donald Andrews, Head Usher 8:00 Service, (687-7878) Ed Margerum, Head Usher 10:30 Service, (442-4027)

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

Peter Conway Ellen Barnes Tom Burkins Vicki Burkins Forrest Boas David Erikson Valarie Ruhl Katherine Boas

<u>APRIL</u>

Michael McLaughlin Michele McLaughlin Eugene Bare Ronald Miller Edwin Margerum Darwin Eshleman Shirley Smith Lois Snader

CHURCH OFFICERS

Committed to following Jesus Christ, the Leacock Presbyterian Church is a caring family of God welcoming all persons in their spiritual journey.

SESSION		DEACONS		
Moderator: Rev. Robert W. Birch		Class of 2013	Class of 2014	Class of 2015
<u>Clerk</u> : Dianne M. Yuninger		Ellen Barnes	Dorothy Buckwalter Charlene Boas	
Congregational Life	Sharon Williams (chair), Ruth Doutrich	Lois Snader	Margy Hershey	Janet Cosby
	Conway	Shelly Summers	Ralph Shenk	Geri Lutz
Christian Education	Dianne Yuninger (chair), Emily Birch	Jane Witmer	Betty Sowers	Lori Smith
<u>Worship</u>	Christian Brackbill (chair),			
	Deb Sindall		TRUSTEES	
Community Outreach	Karen Homsher (chair), Jenny Keenan	Class of 2013	Class of 2014	Class of 2015
Mission	Nick Lopez (chair), Art Myers	Dave Berkhimer	Karen Boyer	Sean Carney
<u>Stewardship</u>	Steve Boas (chair),	Bob Hershey	Mike Hartmann	George Shue
	Matthew McClarigan	Scott Shenk	Mike McLaughlin	Karen Shue

CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Please see separate icon on the front page for the March Church Calendar Leacock Presbyterian Church 3181 Lincoln Hwy East Paradise, PA 17562

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