



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

www.leacockpres.org
687-6619

Volume 54, Number 1
February 2014

Notes From the Manse

"I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43:19

When I was little, I used to take New Year's very seriously. There were those images of an old man leaving and a little baby arriving. I heard adults speak of New Year's resolutions, and it never registered with me how few of them were actually kept. So, I thought this must be pretty important and I would concentrate real hard trying to figure out how I was going to become somebody new. It never really dawned on me, at that age, that that was precisely what I was, somebody new. It turns out Emily had a similar reaction to New Year's as a child. In fact, one New Year's Day, with a grim expression on her face, she resolved to be nice. It got her a bit down when the next day she did something mean to her little brother, but that just made her determined to be doubly nice from that point on.

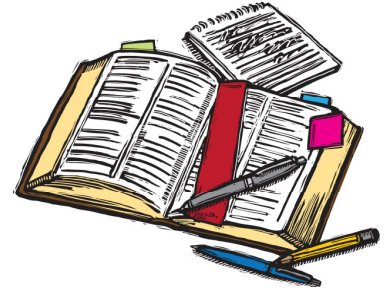
Perhaps we can't keep all of our resolutions, but still a New Year can be a time for hope and new beginnings. And it feels that way at Leacock. The Session held its annual retreat at a new place, the Presbytery office, in the midst of a deluge that felt almost biblical. While grateful for the officers who have completed their terms, I am very excited about the new officers who promise to bring new energy and ideas—why, this year we even have a youth who is serving as a deacon. The deacons as a whole are looking at how they care for folks in need. The trustees have an array of projects they are considering. The Stewardship Committee is considering ways to get our budget in line, to cut costs creatively and to inspire folks to support their church as much as is needed and is possible. There are new adult Sunday School classes, either beginning or coming, with new leaders. The Mission Committee is mulling over how we should balance our mission efforts, locally and globally, and efforts are being made to increase our work with the Factory. Our youth group is growing and will soon be taking a trip into Philadelphia as part of their Make the Homeless Smile initiative. The Congregational Life/ Community Outreach joint committee, as well as the Session as a whole, is looking to come up with new and better ways for us to care for each other as a congregation. The Acts 16:5 group is starting a process that over the coming months will give us a chance as a church to look at everything we do, from worship to mission, open to new ways of doing things while affirming what we have done.

So, yes, there seems to be a new spirit afoot at Leacock. But that spirit will only last and thrive if we enter our work together with belief in each other and our possibilities. The Session, at their retreat, adopted a theme for the year—"Let's stop wringing our hands and start rolling up our sleeves." We do have challenges; every church does. And we need to address them. But the important thing is to get to work on what's possible and not endlessly dwell on the fact that these challenges exist. Even more important, however, is the need to remember who, in the end, makes all things possible. It is the Lord who is about to do a new thing. And if we but trust that the Lord can and will, our work will be productive; it will be blessed. So, let us with joy embark on a new year. Let us be about doing new things. For then we work with our Lord.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Feb 2	(4th Sunday after the Epiphany) Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 I Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20	Psalm 119:33-40 I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48
Feb 9	(5th Sunday after the Epiphany) Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9 [10] I Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]	Feb 16 (6th Sunday after the Epiphany) Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 I Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	
		Feb 23 (7th Sunday after the Epiphany)) Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	



Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Celebration of Each Other

The Session calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Leacock Presbyterian Church (USA) for Sunday, February 16, immediately following one service of worship at 9:30am. The meeting is called for the purpose of receiving the annual reports from 2013 and for any other business brought before the con-

gregation.

Additionally, at this meeting we will celebrate some special folks who have served us faithfully for many years.

Following the meeting, a pot luck luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall.

Put this date on your calendars now and plan to join us for this truly unique Sunday. (In case of snow, the meeting will be held February 23.)



Congregational Meal in February

As we begin the new year, the Congregational Life and Community Outreach Committee would like to invite you to share in a time of fellowship at a pot luck luncheon following this year's annual meeting.

Chili and rice will be provided. Please bring a salad, dessert, or other side dish to share. We look forward to this time to gather together and enjoy each other's company (and food!)



Session Committees



Trustees

Worship

Christian (Skip) Brackbill
Sharon Williams

Stewardship

Steve Boas
Ruth Doutrich

George Shue - President

Karen Boyer
Sean Carney
Dean Englehart
Donald Fieldsa
Mike Hartmann
Robert Hershey
Michael McLaughlin
Karen Shue

Congregational Life/Community Outreach

Tom Burkins
Robin Englehart
Mary Alice High
Jenny Keenan

Christian Education

Emily Birch
Karen Homsher

Mission

Art Myers
Bonnie Rice

Youth



Deacons

Youth Gathering



Charlene Boas, Moderator

Kathy Ankney
Forrest Boas
Dorothy Buckwalter
Janet Cosby
Christy Fieldsa
Margy Hershey
Geri Lutz
Ralph Shank

Lori Smith
Betty Sowers
June Stannard

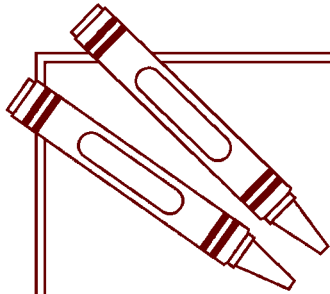
The youth started the new year with a challenge: to open their eyes, really open their eyes, every day, and notice the love that's all around – the Kingdom of God breaking out around us. It's there if you look for it -- the person who stops his car to let you cross the street, the stranger who helps a harried mother with a crying child, the toddler who races up to you and wraps her arms around

your leg in a hug, the kid who tells the school bully to stop picking on another kid.

You'll see love all over the place, if you look for it. Our society often focuses on the negative, the anger, the hate, but we're challenging ourselves to ignore those voices that want us to stay blind (and maybe even help them open their eyes).

We'd like to challenge all the members of the congregation to open their eyes in this way in 2014. Look for all the good that's all around you every day and don't give the bad all your focus.

(Continued on page 6)



Just for KIDS

Biblical Couples

Here are some couples found in the Bible. The husbands' names are given. Find the wives in the list. Use the verses to help.

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Hannah | Rachel | Mary | Rebekah |
| Zipporah | Bathsheba | Sarah | Elizabeth |
| Drusilla | Priscilla | Sapphira | Eve |

 Adam + _____	 Abraham + _____	 Isaac + _____
Genesis 3:20	Genesis 17:15	Genesis 24:67
 Jacob + _____	 Moses + _____	 Elkanah + _____
Genesis 29:28	Exodus 2:21	1 Samuel 1:8
 David + _____	 Joseph + _____	 Zechariah + _____
2 Samuel 12:24	Matthew 1:18	Luke 1:5
 Ananais + _____	 Aquila + _____	 Felix + _____
Acts 5:1	Acts 18:2	Acts 24:24

Session Snippets

Elders gathered on a gray Saturday at the Presbytery Office for their annual retreat. Although the weather raged with rain pounding on the windows and wind howling at times, inside a spirit of renewal, discovery, and enthusiasm reigned.

The Session adopted the theme - "Let's stop wringing our hands and start rolling up our sleeves" - as an invitation to rethink committee structures, closely examine Leacock's sense of stewardship and mission, and be more intentional about encouraging each other and celebrating the good that is happening at Leacock.

The seven hours spent together, including a working lunch, provided a time for candid discussion and serious planning.

The January stated meeting occurred at the end of the day and resulted in these actions:

- ◇ Approving Richard Smith as church publicist
- ◇ Receiving the pastor's continuing education report
- ◇ Approving Trustee special offerings for any undesignated months
- ◇ Approving installation of an unobtrusive handrail at Old Leacock from the floor of the sanctuary to the chancel
- ◇ Appointing Steven Boas as

(Continued on page 5)

Answer: Adam & Eve, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Rachel, Moses & Zipporah, Elkanah & Hannah, David & Bathsheba, Joseph & Mary, Zechariah & Elizabeth, Ananais & Sapphira, Aquila & Priscilla, Felix & Drusilla

Session Snippets (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

- 2014 Nominating Committee chairperson with Sharon Williams as co-chair
- ◇ Appointing the following elders to the 2014 Personnel Committee: Karen Homsher, chairperson; Steven Boas; Jenny Keenan; Skip Brackbill; Emily Birch; and Art Myers

- ◇ Scheduling ordination and installation for January 26
- ◇ Scheduling the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for February 16 with one service of worship at 9:30am with February 23 as the snow date.



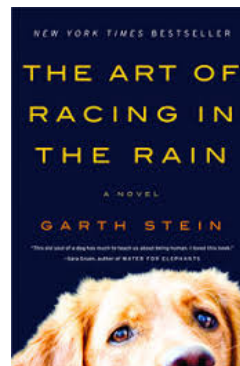
Book and Movie Group

The book and movie discussion club is reading *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein.

We have not yet set a date for our discussion, so stay tuned to announcements and the church bulletin to find out which Sunday evening we will be meeting to enjoy pizza and a lively discus-

sion.

(I'm predicting it will be lively because it always is.) Don't forget that you don't actually have to read the book. You can just come out and enjoy pizza and fellowship with other Leacock folks.



Emily Birch
Book & Movie Group
Coordinator



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 FEBRUARY 2014

Date	Place	Time
Tues, Feb 4	Lampeter Strasburg High School	8:00am to 2:00pm
Wed, Feb 5	White Horse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thurs, Feb 13	Yoders Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed, Feb 19	Kinzer Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thurs, Feb 27	Intercourse 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.



On Sunday January 19 and Sunday January 26 the BLANKET OFFERING will be collected. Each \$5.00 buys a blanket for someone in need.

(Continued from page 3)

We're headed into Philadelphia on February 22 to make the homeless smile. This is the effort we've been working towards all year.

We'd like to thank everyone

Adult Sunday School

The FAITH AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP meets during the Sunday School hour in the library. This is a class for all ages of adults. Using our faith as a "lens," we view and discuss films that present a variety of cultural and contemporary issues. Each week different issues are considered and you do not have to

Mission Committee Report

The Souper Bowl happens the following Sunday, February 2. While planning your activities for the football Super Bowl keep our SOUPER BOWL in mind. We are asking you to help those in less fortunate circumstances through a contribution. Your generosity in past years on these Sundays has helped so many.

This year we enter our fifth year serving Community Meals at Leacock Presbyterian Church.

Our first meal this year will be on Thursday, January 30. The meal will consist of pork and sauerkraut, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, peas, apple sauce and desserts. Help is needed with cooking, setup, serving, and cleanup as well as food donations. There will be signup sheets in the Narthex on the Sunday two weeks before each meal

(Continued on page 7)

Youth (continued)

who supported the bake sale, which helped us raise money to buy bottled water and Power Bars for the homeless. We'd also like to thank all those who donated the 52! sweaters we have to distribute to those we find cold and homeless on the streets of Philadelphia. We're

looking forward to a meaningful expedition.

Emily Birch and
Charlene Boas
Youth Group Leaders



have seen the film to participate.

In future weeks we will discuss the films *Win Win*, *In A Better World*, *Quinceanera*, *Antwone Fisher*, and *The Other Son*. If you have questions contact David Homsher, 687-6469.

Mission Committee Report (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Over the past few months we have served upward of 90 meals monthly and on several occasions over 115 meals. Our success over these years has only been possible through the tremendous response from the congregation in donating food and volunteering to help at each meal. This is something all should be proud of.

The Mission Committee wants to thank all who have helped in so many ways over the years making this a real success.

And for the fifth year WEIS MARKET in Gap will be supplying us with breads and desserts. Our thanks for their most generous donations which have contributed so much to our success in helping others.

New Mailing Address



Jean Beane
 c/o Kirk & Deb Beane
 1846 Mine Road
 Paradise, PA 17562-9757

Pray For

- Feb 2 Joseph & Sharon Williams
- Feb 9 Jane Witmer
- Feb 16 Mildred Young
- Feb 23 David & Bethany Yuninger, Deanna

Happy Birthday

- Feb. 6 Mildred Carpenter
 214 Boyer
 1520 Harrisburg Pike
 Lancaster, PA 17601
- Feb. 6 Ethel Danner
 Apartment 113
 433 S. Kinzer Avenue
 New Holland, PA

Happy Birthday

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



NEW BELL RINGERS

Immediate opening(s) for those of you who always wanted to try the hand bells! You can start playing at the novice or expert level or almost anywhere in between. Some of our members are expert music readers while others are still more comfortable highlighting their notes.

Having a moderate ability to read the rhythm of the notes is helpful.

Please contact Karen Homsher at 687-6469 if you want to add a little musical fun to your week.



(Edited and Adapted from “A Child Speaks About Church” by Steve Lindsley and Lynn Turnage)

As we kick off 2014, I decided it was a good idea to share this powerful piece with our congregation. Studies show that it’s so important for ALL members of a church to interact with and to pay attention to the children who attend church. This gives some guidance and some ideas about how we might best serve the youngest members of our congregation.

Hey.

HEY!

Yes, thanks. Hello. It’s me. I’m a kid in your church. Nice to meet you. I’m sure you’ve seen me before. I’m the one who sits with my family in front of you every Sunday. Remember that blur you saw running around the fellowship hall at the last potluck? Yours truly.

Now that I have your attention, I thought I’d share with you what I need from the church. Because there are a whole lot of ideas out there about what kids need to grow in the faith and stick with the church. Thing is, no one’s bothering to ask us kids what we think. So here are some thoughts to ponder:

Just tell me the Bible story.

Christian Education

Honestly, I don’t need gimmicks, flash, fluff. If I want entertainment, I’ll ask my parents to take me to the movies. And please don’t let some random B-rated Bible cartoon video do it for you. I want *you* to tell me the Bible story. You. Me. The Bible. That’s it.

Remember: I can’t sit still for long. Don’t blame me. God made me this way. Anyway, just make your story-telling segments a little shorter and cut to the chase and help me experience the story with as many of my senses as possible. And when it comes to worship, give me something to do – “worship bags” (although I’d suggest changing them out frequently so I’m not coloring the same picture of Jesus every week).

Give me, at bare minimum, an hour a month with the pastor. This would be awesome. Because sometimes it feels like you all think that I’m too little or too young for the pastor. Which is just silly if you ask me (see scripture on Jesus and the children). Let the pastor tell me a Bible story or take me on a nature walk or just have doughnuts with me.

Give me some responsibility in the church. See, here’s the thing; you expect me to be a bystander in church until I hit some age when



voila!, I’m suddenly supposed to dive in and do everything. Honestly, that’s silly. If you want me to grow up committed to and participating in the life of the church, you need to empower me to do so now. I’d make a great usher on Sunday morning. I know I could serve food at a meal for the homeless if you’d let me.

I like to be with my family and all ages together in worship. (Not always, but sometimes.) On some Sundays, allow me to stay for the entire worship service rather than escorting me out after the children’s sermon. I enjoy being allowed to stay and hear what the grownups are hearing. I actually listen to sermons, and they stick with me – as you are well aware in other contexts, I’m great at remembering everything you adults say. I might get a little antsy (worship bags will help). But I promise you I won’t fall asleep like that dude in front of me every week.

So that’s it. Mainly just focus on telling the story and letting it be the focus. If you do that, I have a pretty good feeling I’ll stick around in church for a long time.

Emily Birch,
Christian Ed. Chair



Stewardship Report - Financial Update November & December 2013

	Offering November		Expenses November	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Monthly Total	\$15,134	\$15,054	\$14,726	\$16,376
Year-to-Date	\$171,703	\$173,744	\$191,378	\$186,274

Budget Tracking Through November

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$251,276	\$247,355
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$191,374	\$186,274
% of Budget Spent	76.0%	75.0%

	Offering December		Expenses December	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Monthly Total	\$26,676	\$27,456	\$25,637	\$25,868
Year-to-Date	\$198,379	\$201,201	\$216,035	\$210,220

Budget Tracking Through December

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$251,276	\$247,355
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$216,035	\$210,220
% of Budget Spent	86.0%	85.0%

- \$ We ended the year 2013 with our total offering \$17,656 LESS THAN our expenses for 2013. Leacock received less in offering than what we spent in 2013, despite control of discretionary spending, and creativity in finding ways to save money.
- \$ In 2013 \$45,192 from the offerings received went to Benevolence and helping others. This amount is a set percentage of the offering received. That percentage is set when a budget is approved. In 2013, that was 22.68% and in 2014 the percentage is 18%.
- \$ In November and December \$2,841 was given to the special funds (Building & Facilities and Organ). In addition, a generous gift of \$500 was given to be used for the music program and a total of \$400 given specifically for benevolence.
- \$ The 2014 budget was approved on November 17, and the total is \$226,889. To support this budget, we need to receive an average of \$4,363 per week.

The Stewardship Committee.



Fellowship Time in the Narthex

The Community Outreach and Congregational Life Committees are working on ways of improving Fellowship Time in the Narthex following Sunday worship services.

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for available Sundays, and we ask that you consider signing up to bring some goodies to share. Or, if you prefer, we will accept monetary donations

to use toward providing Sunday morning refreshments.

With your help, we are hoping to be able to continue providing hot drinks and light refreshments weekly through the winter and spring months.

Over the summer, we anticipate offering lemonade, and resuming our regular refreshment schedule for the fall.

CO/CL Committees

The Community Outreach and Congregational Life Committees are always looking for new faces and ideas. So if you have any suggestions or free hands to help in any way throughout the year, please contact Jenny Keenan, Tom Burkins, Mary Alice High, or Robbin Englehart. We are looking forward to a fun-filled and exciting year!



Notes Received

Leacock Family,

Wanted to say a BIG Thank You for your support as my first year as outdoor sexton. The kind words, cards of praise and words of encouragement have been wonderful. Special thanks to Ryan McLaughlin and Eric Modura for helping with the leaves this fall. What a tremendous help.

Bless You All,
Danielle Short

Dear Leacock Family,

Thank You! to so many who were such a help to me over the years as ushers.

To welcome people to the House of the Lord is Blessed.

Yours,
Don Andrews

Dear Leacock Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of food to our food bank. It was very kind and thoughtful of you. We, The Factory Ministries Staff, as well as our participants are so grateful for your thoughtful gifts this Christmas season.

Thank You,
The Factory Staff

Dear Friends,

Thank you for lifting my spirit while I have been recovering from my recent health challenges. Your cards, your texts, your calls and most importantly your prayers while I was in the hospital and afterwards have truly been appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kevin McClarigan





Gratitude Corner

(A Thank You to Those Who Go Above and Beyond the Call of Duty to Care for Their Minister and His Wife)

Sometimes, members of the congregation take care of their minister anonymously. I'm thinking of this because we just got a very generous gift – as we do every December – from members who contributed to it, but we don't know exactly who they are. Monetary gifts are not the only anonymous gifts we receive. We notice all kinds of kind gestures, like our garbage can and recycling bins mysteriously appearing back at our door once the collectors have been by, favorite goodies (like peanut butter pie) left for us, sidewalks that seem to shovel themselves when it snows, etc., etc. So this month, our thanks go to:

Anonymous. You know who you are, and we want you to know that we *do* notice what you do and are always humbly touched by your gifts of love.

Emily Birch

USHERS - FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014**Ed Margerum, Head Usher****8:00 Service****10:30 Service, (442-4027)**FEBRUARY

David Homsher
Loretta McClarigan
Michael McLaughlin
Michele McLaughlin

Karen Shue
George Shue
Austin Hayes
Kristin Hayes

MARCH

Tom Burkins
Vicki Burkins
Deb Sindall
Robert Sindall

Linda Erickson
Lois Snader
David Erickson
Forrest Boas

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!

NURSERY - FEBRUARY 2014

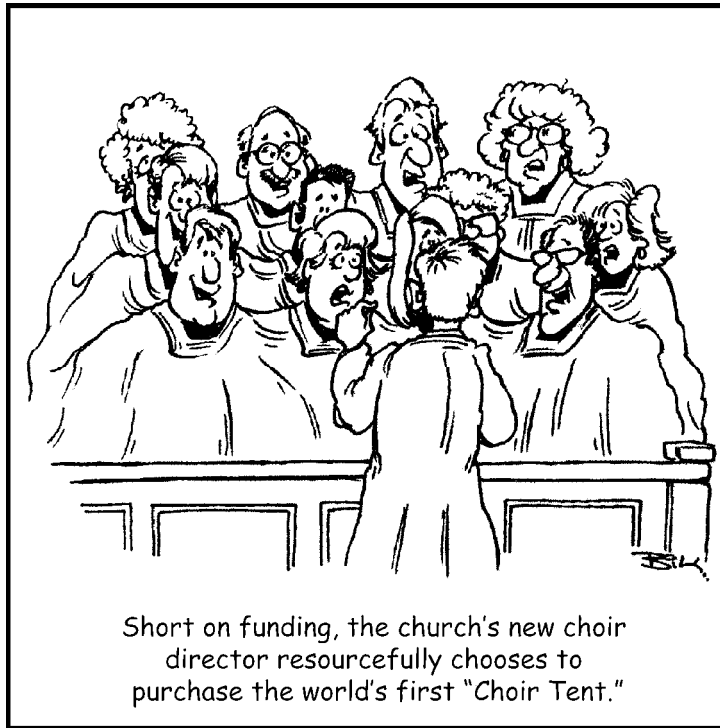
If you are unable to serve as a volunteer, PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE SCHEDULED ON ANOTHER SUNDAY. Call the office secretary, 687-6619, so she can make the bulletin change. THANK YOU!

Feb 2	8:00	Michele McLaughlin
	10:30	Chuck & Kathy Ankney
Feb 9	8:00	Stephanie Kloepfer
	10:30	Charlene Boas & Sharon Williams
Feb 16	9:30	Darwin Eshleman & Craig Keenan
Feb 23	8:00	Deb Sindall
	10:30	Lois Snader & Mary Alice High
March 2	8:00	Karen Boyer
	10:30	David & Carol Berkhimer
March 9	8:00	Scott Shenk
	10:30	Donald & Christy Fieldsa
March 16	8:00	Janet Huffman
	10:30	Michele & Sara Lichty
March 23	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Sean & Maureen Carney
March 30	8:00	Taryn Shenk
	10:30	Charlene Boas & Lea Lichty

WELCOME CENTER GREETERSFEBRUARY

8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

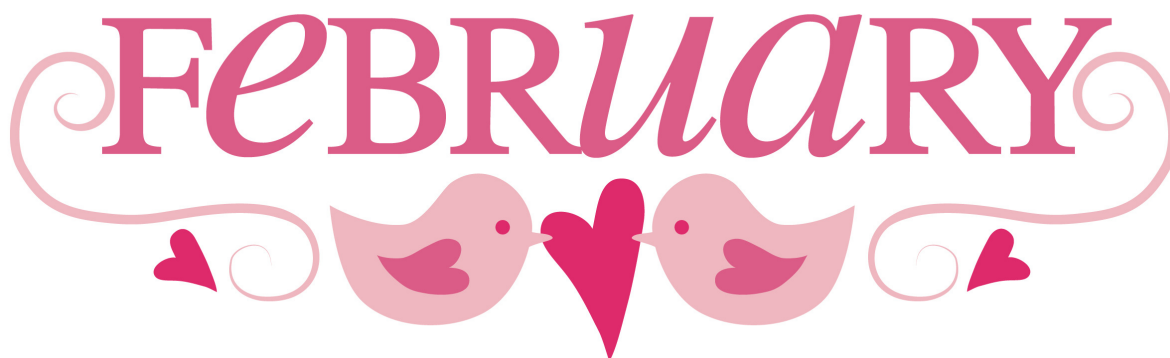
Dick Miller
Fran Sattazahan



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

Leacock Presbyterian Church
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THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
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