



Leacock Communicator
Leacock Presbyterian Church

www.leacockpres.org
687-6619

Volume 54, Number 2
March 2014

Notes From the Manse

It's been quite a winter, cold, with a near record snowfall (contrary to popular rumor, I had nothing to do with it, really!). But even in the longest winter, there are breaks, thaws that come unexpectedly to remind us that winter is not the last word, that spring will come once more. Last week was just such a thaw, in more ways than one. The snows stopped falling, temperatures soared (or at least they seemed to), and in places grass actually reappeared. But for a few others and me, there was another thaw, another burst of sunlight in what can often seem to be a cold, dark world.

For a while now, our youth had wanted to do some mission work all on their own. Our youth group leaders had learned of a project called Make the Homeless Smile, in which people not only fed the homeless, but actually got to know them. The kids took to the idea. For months, they raised money and collected sweaters, along the way deciding that Philadelphia would be their destination, for it was a city both pretty close and with great, longstanding need. The problem was that we didn't know the best approach for reaching out to the homeless in Philadelphia. So, I contacted a church there, Arch St. Presbyterian, and they pointed me to Broad Street Ministry, a place of worship serving the homeless. A woman there, Gracie, was excited to hear of our idea, but she herself was busy with another youth group the day we were planning to come, so she suggested I speak to the leaders of the Youth Against Complacency and Homelessness Today (Y.A.C.H.T) Club at Eastern University. These are college kids who, twice a week, go to the Free Library in Philadelphia and offer friendship and food to the homeless. I got to know first Frances and then Christian; Christian eagerly agreed to meet with our youth to explain what Y.A.C.H.T did and how our kids could do the same. I have to admit I was a bit struck by how appropriate the names of these folks were—Gracie, for there was grace; Frances, for the man who took on poverty to serve the Lord; and, of course, Christian.

When Christian asked if any of our kids were nervous, several hands went up. But after the first, awkward moments, a different kind of thaw occurred on a warm, spring-like day—the youth happily sought out homeless people, offered our water and energy bars and all kinds of sweaters. And they met people, people perhaps without homes, but in the end people like them, who are their neighbors. Why, at the end, when it was time to leave, it was hard to get a few groups to leave their conversations with new friends.

We all learned from the experience—bottled water is not all that needed; backpacks are. But most of all, our youth learned that when you make the homeless smile, you smile as well—one asked if they might do it all again next week! I tried to think of an appropriate Scripture verse to go along with this piece, but there were so many. Ultimately I was drawn to *Matthew 25*, where the Lord speaks of those who are blessed because when he was hungry, they gave him food; when he was thirsty, they gave him something to drink; when he was a stranger, they welcomed him. Our youth reached out to the least, and in doing so, they reached out to their Lord. Oh, yes, they were blessed. In their own way, they themselves were a thaw in a cold world.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Mar 2 (Transfiguration of the Lord) Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Mar 9 (1st Sunday in Lent) Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Mar 23 (3rd Sunday in Lent) Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
Mar 5 (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 16 (2nd Sunday in Lent) Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9	Mar 30 (4th Sunday in Lent) 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee is preparing our Lenten meditation series. We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings starting March 11. As in the past, we will gather for a fellowship meal of soup and bread at 6:00pm. Rev. Birch will be guiding us thru a meditation series on the importance of meals in Jesus' ministry culminating

in the Lord's Supper.

This year we will be inviting members of First Presbyterian Church Strasburg to join us on our evening gatherings. Their church, in return, are inviting any of our members who wish to attend their noon gatherings on Wednesdays starting on March

12.

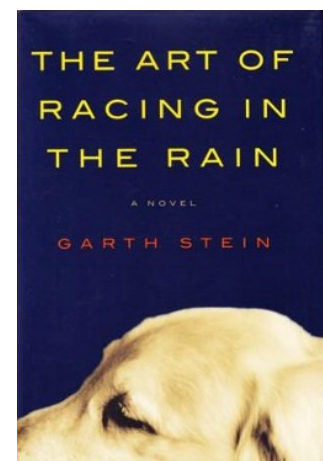
The Worship Committee is investigating the need for gluten-free bread when we celebrate communion. If you have any input for the committee, please contact the church office, the pastor, or any Worship Committee member.

Leacock Book and Movie Group

The book and movie discussion club is reading *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. We will gather for pizza and a discussion of the book on Sunday March 16 at 5:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us, and please remember that you don't have to have read the book. You can just come and enjoy the fellowship with other

Leacock folks. We're open, also, to suggestions for a movie to watch related to this book.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie Group
Coordinator





Mission Committee



The congregation of Leacock Presbyterian Church was again very generous making the Blanket Sundays and the Souper Bowl Sunday quite successful. The money from the Souper Bowl Sunday will be going to the Water Street Mission to help the homeless. The money from the Blanket Sundays is going to buy a lot of blankets for the needy. Many thanks and blessings to all.

It's Hot Dogs, Chili and Rice, Peas, Carrots and Apple Sauce for March's Community Meal.

The time remains the same -5:30pm to 6:30pm - and the date is Thursday, March 27. We are again asking for volunteers to help us in preparing and serving the meal for the community. Also needed are contributions of food for the meal. Sign-up sheets for both are in the Narthex.

As Lent begins we are reminded that all Sundays in Lent are One Great Hour of Sharing Sundays to help the less fortunate. You will find the envelopes for your offerings in the pews.

To those who so generously gave to the CROP Walk with checks made out to the Church World Services, as requested, we have recently been informed that it can take Church World Services over 3 months to deposit checks they receive. We don't really know why this

occurs and we are looking at ways to speed up the process.

On the church's website we will be posting photos, videos, and other information as we receive them from those whom we support in the field spreading God's word and doing his work.

This month we have an interesting item from Jim and Joan Farr. Logon and take a look at what is happening with the Farris and their work.

Our thanks to Tom Burkins for setting this up and to Richard Smith for sending the article to us.

Again thank you for your generosity in sharing God's blessings with others in need.

Your Mission Committee

Pray For

- Mar 2 Harold & Dianne Yuninger
- Mar 9 Lucy Ames
- Mar 16 H. Donald & Beatrice Andrews
- Mar 23 Chad & Brandi Ankney
- Mar 30 Charles III & Kathy Ankney, Kristen

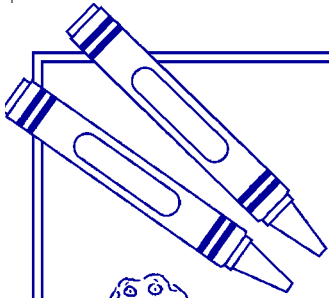
Happy Birthday

- Mar 22
Jean Beane
c/o Kirk & Deb Beane
1846 Mine Road
Paradise, PA 17562-9757

Flowers

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays March 16 or March 30 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.





Just for **KIDS**



Let's Take a Trip!

Imagine that you are visiting a zoo in biblical times. What kind of animals would you find?

Unscramble the letters below to find some biblical animals. Check the verses to check your answers.

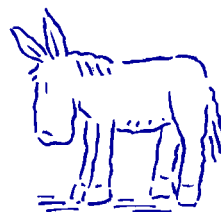


- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| _____ pae | _____ ntlaoepe |
| _____ atb | _____ lcmae |
| _____ dnyoke | _____ eplorad |
| _____ gfor | _____ roshe |
| _____ wlo | _____ aotg |
| _____ brae | _____ eder |
| _____ xo | _____ zirald |
| _____ otksr | _____ gzleael |
| _____ niol | _____ yeanh |
| _____ art | _____ eswale |
| _____ whak | _____ hesep |
| _____ mra | _____ iepgno |
| _____ dveo | _____ aclett |



Deuteronomy 14:3-5
Deuteronomy 14:15-18
Genesis 12:16
Genesis 15:9
Isaiah 13:22
Leviticus 11:29-30

1 Kings 10:22
1 Samuel 17:34
Genesis 22:3
Genesis 47:17
Revelation 13:2
Exodus 8:3



February Session Snippets

The following actions were taken at the February Session meeting:

- ◇ Approving hanging plaque of pic-a-pipe donors for the organ refurbishing in the sanctuary
- ◇ Accepting the gift of the new Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God*
- ◇ Scheduling Ash Wednesday service March 5 at 5:30 p.m.
- ◇ Inviting the group from Servant Stage Company to present a program of Gospel music "I'll Fly Away"
- ◇ Personnel Committee actions:
 - ◇ Personnel Committee Chair will be elected at last committee meeting of calendar year.
 - ◇ Personnel Committee Chair must be a church officer; he/she may serve ex officio with power to vote in case of a tie.
 - ◇ Personnel Committee will consist of Session Committee Chairs, Moderator of Deacons, President of Trustees, and pastor.
 - ◇ Personnel Committee will review job descriptions annually.
 - ◇ Close family members will not be part of the review process for staff.
- ◇ Scheduling the April combined Session-Trustee meeting for April 21

Answer: Column 1: ape, bat, donkey, frog, owl, bear, ox, stork, lion, rat, hawk, ram, dove
Column 2: antelope, camel, leopard, horse, goat, deer, lizard, gazelle, hyena, weasel, sheep, pigeon, cattle

(Continued on page 5)

Session Snippets (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

- ◇ Scheduling the October combined Session-Trustee meeting for October 23
- ◇ Setting the quorum for meetings of the congregation at 20% of the active membership



Trustees

The Trustees want to thank everyone for their patience with snow removal around the church. It's been a big job and expense; please be careful as we have a lot of freezing and thawing in the parking lot and sidewalks.

Spring is coming; we will be planning a work day in April to spruce up for Easter. Thank You, Trustees

Bazaar News

Thanks to the work of many hands, \$2,000.00 from the 2013 Bazaar was sent to the following:

- ⇒ Presbytery of Donegal Hunger Fund
- ⇒ Lancaster County Council of Churches Fuel Fund
- ⇒ Domestic Violence Services Women's Shelter
- ⇒ Ridgeview Mennonite Back Pack Project

Christian Ed



K-5. Stay posted for dates for these special opportunities for your child to spend time with the pastor.

The adult Sunday school class has been

watching some very thought-provoking movies like *Millions* and *Antwone Fisher* as a means to explore Christian/religious themes in popular culture.

They will continue to do so through the spring and would like to encourage anyone who's interested in joining to contact David Homsher for dates and times of movie viewings.

I know there's still snow on the ground, but believe it or not, we will soon be gearing up for Vaca-

tion Bible School. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out this summer. I can promise you, it will be a rewarding experience and a great way for you to get to know the children in our community.

Emily Birch,
Christian Ed. Chair



In keeping with the article in the last edition of the newsletter, the Christian Ed Committee is looking at ways to make our young people feel as welcome as possible at this church.

To that end, we are going to give them a little one-on-one time with Reverend Birch this year.

He is going to take over God's Place for Boys and Girls for one Sunday, and he will also teach a Sunday School class for grades

Celebrations - Leacock Honors Those Who Serve

This year, at the Annual Meeting, time was taken to celebrate those who have served the church in a variety of ways and who have recently stepped down. The following are those who were honored, with the number of years they served, and some of the words honoring them.

Deacons

- ☺ Tracy Dippner (3): she served with her heart, even when her heart hurt. She was a calm and steady presence with her fellow deacons and all for whom she cared.
- ☺ Lois Snader (3): she never says no, involving herself in so many ways, with so many people. After chairing the Deacons, she helped the transition to a new chair.
- ☺ Jane Witmer (3): she cares not only for those assigned to her, but also for friends, really for anyone who can use her help.

Trustees

- ☺ Scott Shenk (4): he was always there when needed, even though it was not always easy, juggling job and family. He helped as well by filling out a term.
- ☺ Dave Berkheimer (6): he has served well and long, both leading the Trustees and helping those who followed him. His dry sense of humor keeps everyone in line.

Session

- ☺ Nick Lopez (4): he probably didn't know all he was getting into, but he gave his all to Mission and the Community Meal—with able help from his wife, Evie.
- ☺ Matt McClarigan (4): he worked hard to inspire the congregation to get the church's finances in order and to offer their time and talents to get things done.
- ☺ Deb Sindall (2): she worked hard wherever she was needed, on both the Mission and Worship Committees. She cares deeply about the church and it shows.
- ☺ Dianne Yuninger (6): She gives so much of herself in so many ways to the church she loves. Her time as a ruling elder is over—but she is still Clerk!

God's Place for Boys and Girls

- ☺ Lois Eshleman (4): with Sue Esch, she devised a new program, giving kids their own worship service. The kids loved the "white-haired lady" and her crafts.

Head Ushers

- ☺ Don Andrews (20+): every Sunday morning, he welcomed folks—including the minister—with a smile and kind words. And he was ably aided by his wife, Bea.
- ☺ Ralph Homsher (20+): he was ever dependable and organized—you could set your watch by him. He made sure all things, including the pastor, were in line.

Crop Walk

- ☺ Richard Smith (15): he took care of all logistics, including connecting with other churches, publicity, and making sure no one got lost. He walked the walk.



Stewardship Report - Financial Update January 2014

	Offering January		Expenses January	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Monthly Total	\$13,926	\$14,627	\$17,032	\$14,637
Year-to-Date	\$13,926	\$14,627	\$17,032	\$14,637

Budget Tracking Through January

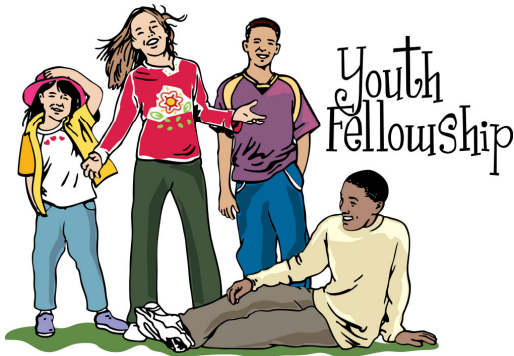
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$226,889	\$251,276
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$17,032	\$14,637
% of Budget Spent	7.0%	6.0%

For 2014, we set a budget of \$226,880, a significant decrease from 2013. This was an attempt to bring our expected spending into better alignment with our income from offerings. It was a difficult process to get the budget to this point, but even at this amount, we have a challenge to meet. To meet our budget, we need to receive an average of \$4,363 each week. There were four weeks in January, and we would have liked to see \$4,363 x 4 or \$17,453 received in offering for January. We received a total of \$13,926 for January, which means we are \$17,453 - \$13,926 = \$3,527 behind our budget already for 2014. We have time to make up our shortfall, but starting off the year behind does not make our job to meet budget any easier.

The Stewardship Committee.



Youth



After all the talk about our Make the Homeless Smile campaign, the youth finally did just that.

We went into Philadelphia and passed out water, energy bars, and over 70 sweaters to homeless people, who were very appreciative (some of us even had our pictures taken by a relative of one of the homeless men who was so appreciative of what we were doing).

We received and returned many, many “God bless yous.” We’d like to thank all those of you who donated sweaters, paid to wear wacky sweaters on Wacky Sweater Sunday, and who bought baked goods from us in order to make this trip possible.

An extra big “thank you” to Gene Sowers who donated a substantial gift to the youth group last summer. We would not have been able to take this trip, which was certainly a wonderful experience for all involved, without your help.

We’re busy plotting and planning our next adventures. We hope to take another retreat to Jim Thorpe this summer for fun and fellowship as well as to plan our youth

service, like we did last year.

We’re also looking into the possibility of pairing up with a sister youth group in the Bronx (thanks to a connection Bob and Margy Hershey have given us), and we definitely want to go back into Philadelphia to make the homeless smile some more.

We’ve learned that they’d like backpacks, so expect a backpack campaign of some sort in the near future.

Emily Birch and
Charlene Boas
Youth Group Leaders

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 MARCH 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tues, Mar 11	Yoders Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thurs, Mar 27	HACC	10:00am to 3:00pm

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.



Thank You Note Received

Dear Church Family,
I would like to thank the deacons for the delivery of the "beautiful beyond words" poinsettia. It has brighten many a day!

Thank to all of you who continue to pray for my brother, Scott. Please add my grand daughter, Emily to your prayers.

It is a comfort and a joy to be a member of this caring congregation. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Ron & Sue Funk



Gratitude Corner

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

I don't sew. I think I would've failed a good part of what was then called home ec. when I was in 7th grade if I hadn't had a very kind and patient friend who helped me get through it. All I remember about my mother trying to teach me to hem is that I dissolved into tears at some point, and she gave up. Suffice it to say that when I noticed the hem of Bob's robe was ripped and dragging, I wasn't sure what we were going to do (I don't know if any of you know this, but minister's robes, we discovered, oh, about 6 ½ years ago, are quite costly).

I mentioned it to Karen Homsher and then promptly forgot about it. Next thing I know, she had fixed it! So, this month, it's a huge THANK YOU to Karen for doing something I could never have done (I don't think I need tell you that Bob never could have done it, either). I'm just hoping it wasn't too difficult. Big, heavy robes seem like they'd be especially difficult to someone who can barely thread a needle.

Emily Birch

USHERS - MARCH AND APRIL 2014**Ed Margerum, Head Usher****8:00 Service****10:30 Service, (442-4027)**MARCHTom Burkins
Vicki Burkins
Deb Sindall
Robert SindallLinda Erickson
Lois Snader
David Erickson
Forrest BoasAPRILKaren Boyer
Art Myers
Nick Lopez
Evie LopezMary Alice High
Bob Hershey
Margie Hershey
Darwin Eshleman

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 - MARCH AND APRIL 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!

Mar 2	8:00	Karen Boyer
	10:30	David & Carol Berkhimer
Mar 9	8:00	Scott Shenk
	10:30	Donald & Christy Fieldsa
Mar 16	8:00	Janet Huffman
	10:30	Michele & Sara Lichty
Mar 23	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Sean & Maureen Carney
Mar 30	8:00	Taryn Shenk
	10:30	Charlene Boas & Lea Lichty
Apr 6	8:00	Loretta McClarigan
	10:30	Alba & Valerie Ruhl
Apr 13	8:00	Tom & Vicki Burkins
	10:30	Mike Hartmann & Craig Keenan
Apr 20	9:30	Lauren & Ruth Anne Appel
Apr 27	9:30	Sue Funk



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

Leacock Presbyterian Church
3181 Lincoln Hwy East
Paradise, PA 17562
Address Return Required

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