



Leacock Communicator
Leacock Presbyterian Church

www.leacockpres.org
687-6619

Volume 54, Number 4
May 2014

Notes From the Manse

Oh, what a glorious season it has been! The music filling the church, with the choir singing anthems, bells ringing, the notes of a trumpet; the shifting marks of the Lord's journey to a cross and through a tomb to life in the decorations of the church—palms, a crown of thorns, a flood of flowers; reflection in prayer and word on the great price Christ paid for love; foot washing; saying the Nicene Creed on Easter morning and really knowing the resurrection meaning of those words—this and so much more we have shared. We journeyed through Lent, pausing in our busy lives to meditate on the path Jesus walked and that we are called to follow. We walked with him those last days, when the earth shook and the sky went dark. We grieved for him. And then we were astonished once again by life where we had thought there was only death. This is joy; this is grace; this is the word the Word gives us each Easter.

And yet. There are still people in our fellowship who are sick, who need healing, be it in body, mind, or soul. There are still wars and rumors of wars across the globe. Men, women, and children will go to sleep tonight hungry, cold, alone. Even the days surrounding this holy season are reminders of the hurt, the brokenness that remains in the world. Earth Day was April 22nd, two days after Easter, and there are stories of deserts claiming farmland in Africa, of water shortages in this country, of rainforests vanishing, forests that contain some of the medicines of the world. As Paul wrote so long ago, yes, the whole creation has been subjected to futility, is groaning, longing for help from the children of God. Then there is April 28th, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the day before I fly to Israel and Palestine on a peacemaking mission, and we are called to remember the slaughter of the Jews by the Nazis as we contemplate the plight of the Palestinians. This and so much more can surely give us pause, make us wonder where is the Easter life, where are the new heavens and the new earth, where is the risen Lord? Is it any wonder Thomas would not believe until he could see and touch Christ?

And yet. If we but look, we will see signs of grace; we will see signs of the Kingdom coming; we will see the marks of Jesus Christ. Yes, the earth and its creatures suffer. But then I read a story about people rescuing a litter of blind, deaf, and dumb puppies and nurturing them, teaching them by touch, by patience, by love. Yes, the Mideast and so many other areas of the world are torn apart by conflict. But there are still people who believe peace is possible, who make journeys to listen and learn and try to tear down dividing walls. Here at Leacock, we have people working side by side on Work Day, at the Community Meal, on boards and in committees as we meet the challenges of today, while planning for the future.

In the end, Thomas did believe, because he saw and touched his Lord. Well, I believe that we too can see and touch the Lord, whenever we encounter an act of grace, whenever we meet people who are kind, forgiving, loving, who work for the healing of their communities and the world. So, let us embody Easter not only in this season, but every day. Let us die to brokenness and rise with Christ. Let us believe.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

May 4 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24: 13-35

May 18 (5th Sunday of Easter)
Acts 7: 55-60
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

May 29 (Ascension of the Lord)
Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1: 15-23

May 11 (4th Sunday of Easter)
Acts 2: 42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2: 19-25
John 10: 1-10

May 25 (6th Sunday of Easter)
Acts 17: 22-31
1 Peter 3: 13-22
John 14: 15-21



Leacock Book and Movie Group

Hot Diggity Dog!

The Leacock book and movie discussion group will follow up its reading and discussion of *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein, which featured a dog that helped his humans during rough times, with a potluck dinner and a viewing of the movie *My Dog Skip*, another story featuring a

dog who helps his human, this time a young boy, during rough times. The date is Sunday May 18th at 5:00 p.m. (note, parents of youth group members, the youth group will be joining the potluck and movie group that Sunday at 5:00 p.m., rather than their usual time. Please join us, if you can). This is a family friendly

movie, so we're hoping everyone will come out to enjoy a delicious meal and good film together. We will have a discussion following the movie for those who wish to participate.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie Group
Coordinator

Summer Hymn Sings

Once again Old Leacock opens its doors for our monthly community hymn sing, the first Sunday of each month May through September, at 7:00 p.m.

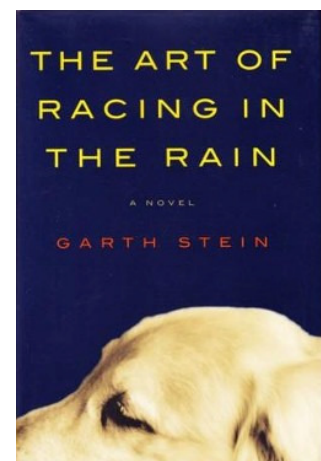
Join us for an hour of heartfelt song—your choice—and then enjoy lemonade in the courtyard.



Invite a Neighbor to Church

Old Leacock Summer Services

Beginning June 1, our 8:00 a.m. service of Worship will be held at Old Leacock.



You're Never Too Old

One of the things I love about being a youth group leader is that our youth teach me much more than I ever seem to teach them. One of the things they've taught me this year is that you're never too old to enjoy a good Disney movie (although, once you're a teenager, watching it might be accompanied by some very witty and ironic comments made at appropriate times throughout the viewing). Thanks to Sara Lichty, who brought her copy along one evening, we watched *Frozen*, and, yes, some of us even sang along.

The next thing you're never too old to do is to dye Easter eggs. In fact, when teenagers dye Easter eggs, the results are stunning, because they do things like painting designs on them. Once you're finished dying them, you're also never too old to play "scientist," mixing all the colors together to discover that, basically, they all turn black.

I plan to spend this summer learning more from our youth. Some of you may have been under the impression that the Leacock Youth Group doesn't meet during meet during the summer months, but we do. How much sweeter it is during the summer months when we can get together without the burden of homework hanging over our heads or having to be up for school on Monday morning.

On Sunday, May 18th, the youth group will join the adults for a pot luck meal and a viewing of the movie *My Dog Skip*. This will be a night for the whole family, and we hope parents will join. Youth group will start at 5:00 p.m. and end at its regular hour of 8:30 p.m. Hope to see everyone there.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas
Youth Group Leaders

Youth Gathering



Pray For

May 4	Ralph & Ruth Bair
May 11	Eugene & Nancy Bare
May 18	Ellen Barnes
May 25	Jean Beane

Please
Pray
for...



And a Little Child Shall Lead Them

May Schedule for God's Place
for Kids/Chance to Be Led By a
Child:

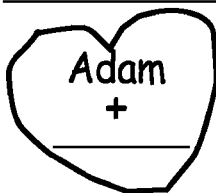
May 4	Milt & Barb Hostetter
May 11	Karen Homsher
May 18	Karen Homsher
May 25	Emily Birch & Alyssa Keenan



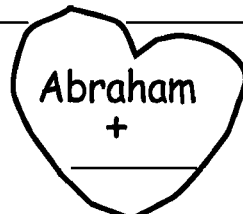
Biblical Couples

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

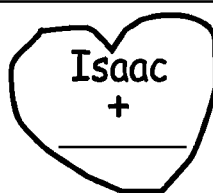
Hannah	Rachel	Mary	Rebekah
Zipporah	Bathsheba	Sarah	Elizabeth
Drusilla	Priscilla	Sapphira	Eve



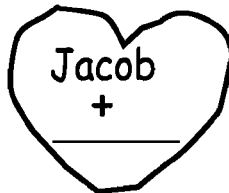
Genesis 3:20



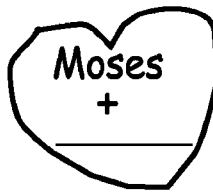
Genesis 17:15



Genesis 24:67



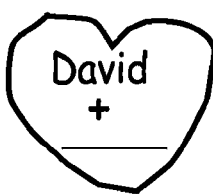
Genesis 29:28



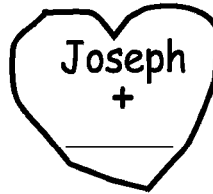
Exodus 2:21



1 Samuel 1:8



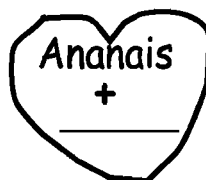
2 Samuel 12:24



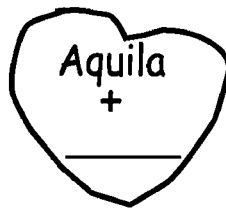
Matthew 1:18



Luke 1:5



Acts 5:1



Acts 18:2



Acts 24:24

May Session Snippets

The Session met with the Board of Deacons for their annual combined Meeting. The boards shared mutual concerns about ministering to At-home members as well as encouraging more congregational opportunities for fellowship.

Session actions included the following:

- Establishing a fund-raising task force to raise money to support mission projects.
- Giving the Stewardship Committee permission to pursue the idea of electronic giving.
- Transferring \$31,000 from the Endowment Fund to repay congregational organ fund loans with interest and transferring \$4,000 from the Endowment Fund to the General Fund.
- Accepting an anonymous donation of *Glory to God*, the new Presbyterian hymnal, for Old Leacock.
- Approving the following pulpit supplies during Rev. Birch's peacemaking trip to the Middle East: May 4—Sarah Kneier, May 11—Rev. Richard Sindall.
- Benevolence Report: Balance \$11, 189; One Great Hour of Sharing \$3160; Souper Bowl Offering to Water Street Rescue Mission \$248; Blanket Offering through Church World Service \$374.

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



VBS

Save the dates June 22—26

Volunteers needed. See Marie Brackbill, Jenny Keenan, or Dianne Yuninger if you can help.

Trustees

The Trustee's would like to Shout Out a big "THANK YOU" to all who came out for Work Day.

There are many repairs that need done; a few large ones that we know of now include the elevator, slate roof and flat rubber roof. The winter was particularly hard on the slate roof. The Trustees have designated the envelopes in the pews for the

Month of May, for ongoing maintenance repairs.

A pleas to help with our expenses: please make sure that you turn out the lights that you turn on. Almost on a daily basis lights are found on that shouldn't be. Also, please allow the trustees to control the heat in the Narthex.

Any concerns please contact any trustee.

Thank you, Trustees

Calling All Who Love Children/Teens

The Christian Ed Committee is looking for volunteers to lead our children along their walks of faith. We need volunteers willing to teach and assist teaching Sunday school in 2014-2015, not for an entire year but for a few months at a time. As a Sunday school teacher myself—and also as someone who never had any intention of teaching, being a rather shy person, but who was called to do so in another church about 10 years ago, only to discover that it was an incredibly wonderful fork in the road on my own walk of faith—I can promise you that it's a truly rewarding experience. Prayerfully consider whether or not you feel called to this ministry

Christian Ed

especially if you love young people. Please let either Karen Homsher or me know if you are interested.

Summer Camp

You can find brochures for Camp Donegal at the back of the church. Camp Donegal is a wonderful camp sponsored by your Presbytery, which has provided a fun summer experience for all the kids at Leacock who've participated. We highly encourage you to participate. Please know that we offer scholarship assistance to help cover expenses for those who need it.

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school class is wrapping up its movie discussions at the end of May. The most recent has been *My Other*

Son, a very appropriate movie for discussion as our minister heads off to Israel and Palestine, about two families, one Israeli and one Palestinian, whose sons are switched at birth. Anyone is welcome to join on Sunday mornings (whether you watch the movie or not).

And don't forget to make plans for Vacation Bible School June 22-26 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. This year's theme is Psalm 23.

Emily Birch,
Christian Ed. Chair



Leacock Softball Team Schedule

Date	Time	Team v. Team	Field
May 5	7:45	Bird-in-Hand v. Leacock	#1
May 12	7:45	Leacock v. Ridgeview	#2
May 19	9:00	Leacock v. Weaverland #1	#1
May 26		Memorial Day Holiday—No Games	
June 2	7:45	Leacock v. Weaverland #2	#2
June 9	9:00	Hershey v. Leacock	#1
June 16	7:45	Leacock v. Keystone	#1
June 23	9:00	Little Britain v. Leacock	#1
June 30	9:00	Bellevue v. Leacock	#2
July 7	9:00	Grace Point v. Leacock	#1
July 14	9:00	Pequea Baptist v. Leacock	#1
July 21	6:30	Ridgeview v. Leacock	#1
July 28	6:30	Leacock v. Bird-in-Hand	#2
August 4	6:30	Leacock v. St. Johns	#2
Mini-Playoffs			
August 5	7:00	Game #1 Division A	#1
	8:15	Game #2 Division A	#1
	7:00	Game #1 Division B	#2
	8:15	Game #2 Division B	#2

Playoffs Begin August 11—More details to come at a later date.



Stewardship Report - Financial Update April 2014

	<u>Offering, March</u>		<u>Expenses, March</u>	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Monthly Total	\$20,430	\$18,284	\$20,907	\$19,460
Year to Date	\$49,167	\$46,625	\$52,605	\$49,123

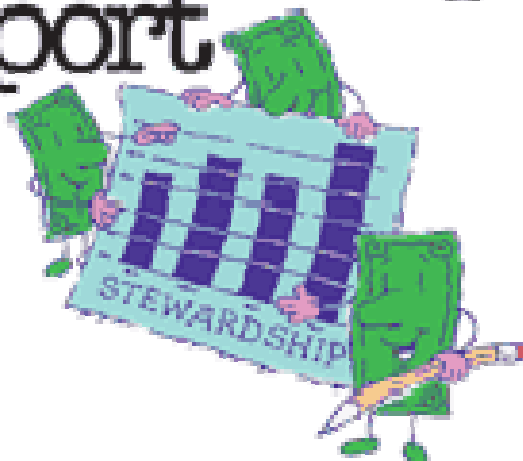
Budget Tracking through March

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$226,889	\$251,276
Year to Date Expenses	\$52,605	\$49,123
% of Budget Spent	23%	20%

To meet our budget, we need to receive an average of \$4,363 each week. There were five Sundays in March, and we would have liked to see $\$4,363 \times 5$ or \$21,815 received in offering for March. We received a total of \$20,430 for March, which means we are $\$21,815 - \$20,430 = \$1,385$ behind our 2014 budget for the month of March, and for the year to date (Jan, Feb & March) $\$56,719 - \$49,167 = \$7,552$ behind budget.

As far as our actual expenditure versus offering, we are also tracking behind. \$52,605 has been spent and we received \$49,167 in offering. That is a deficit of \$3,438.

Stewardship Report



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

Before I get to thanking a specific person this month, I want to open this article by telling everyone in the congregation how writing it every month has affected me. At the beginning of the year, I challenged our youth to look around them every day and to focus on evidence of love in their lives. Most of us have a tendency to focus on and to remember the negative, but once you start looking for love and the positive, you find it out there all the time, in abundance. It takes a little discipline to do that. As I once read in a book, humans are wired for survival, which means we look out for the snake that might bite us, not the beautiful flower that will do us no harm.

Well, the monthly discipline of writing this article has kept me focused on the flowers. I've always said this a wonderful, loving congregation, but when you truly start looking for things to demonstrate that fact, you discover you're overwhelmed with many, many examples to choose from. I'm discovering that it's very hard to choose one person every month. This church is bursting at the seams with the love of Christ. So, I encourage you to try it. Look for all the examples of love going on all around you here at Leacock, encourage others to do so, helping them to see the light if you hear them getting down. Maybe we need to start a new newsletter column, written by volunteers: "Love at Leacock," in which people send in specific examples each month. Just a thought.

Anyway, now to my person of the month. This is the life of a minister's wife. About a week before Easter, Bob was busy working on his sermon "Seeds" for the second service when, suddenly, he had a brain storm. Now, back when we had time for such things, Bob and I used to have a rather large vegetable garden at our house in Connecticut, but you would never call either of us Green Thumbs. I basically know nothing about plants, but that didn't stop him from coming to me and saying,

"I've just come up with a great illustration for my Easter sermon. Do you think there's any sort of seed I could plant on Mandy Thursday that would that might come up by Easter Sunday?"

My first response, "Are you nuts? There's nothing that would do that."

Oh, ye of little faith! Enter Evie Lopez, who found the source (Emma) who could give us the answer, and came through with a little pot, and a seed she planted. Those of you who were at the service on Easter, know that she wasn't quite convinced it would actually sprout by Sunday, either. Saturday morning, she came to the door of the manse with some little "backup" sprouts to stick in the pot, in case we didn't have anything. It turns out her little sprouts weren't needed because God came through with the original seed that had been planted, a miracle—helped along by Evie's love and dedication—for Easter Sunday, indeed. Thank you Evie!

Emily Birch



Connecting and Caring: Being the Body of Christ at Leacock

The early church stood out in the Roman world. Why? Because they seemed to be full of joy; they cared for and shared with one another; they met and overcame challenges together. Paul made it clear that we are together individual members of the body of Christ. And remember his words: “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice with it.” This is the way of life we are called to, some 2,000 years after those words were written to the church in Corinth.

Over the last year, folks here at Leacock have been seeking ways that we can be better together as a fellowship. The Deacons and the Session, as well as the new ACTS 16:5 group, have all been engaged in this. We are looking for your input. If you have any ideas for how the people of our church, young and old, can become closer, please let us know. If you would like a visit from the pastor or other church folks or if you know somebody who would, let us know. And if you would like to visit folks, let us know that too. Contact the pastor, the Clerk (Dianne Yuninger), members of Session or the Board of Deacons. If we can fellowship in groups large and small, we will come alive as a church. And we can have fun doing it.



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, May 6	Yoders Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed, May 7	Lancaster General Hospital	9:00am to 2:00pm
Thurs, May 8	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.



USHERS - May and June 2014**Ed Margerum, Head Usher****8:00 Service****10:30 Service, (442-4027)**May

Ralph Shank
 Robbin Englehart
 Dean Englehart
 Tracy Dippner

Charlene Boas
 Steve Boas
 Lori Smith
 Shirley Smith

June

Eugene Bare
 Richard Miller
 Ellen Barnes
 Bonnie Rice

Michael Hartmann
 Ehren Graybill
 Keo Phongsaysanith
 Ed Johann

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 and contact the head usher. They will contact the church office. THANK YOU!

NURSERY - May and June 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!

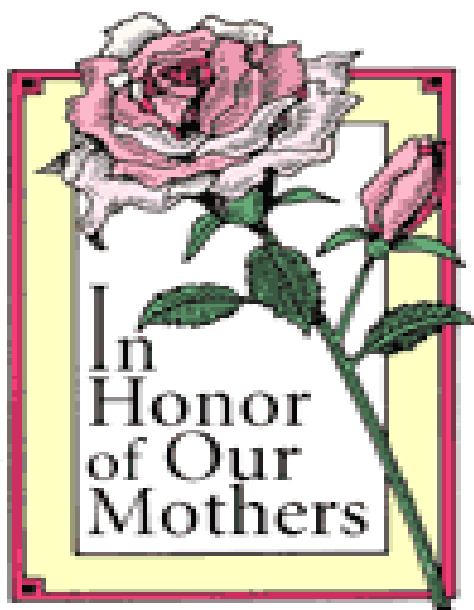
May 4	8:00	Loretta McClarigan
	10:30	Alba & Valerie Ruhl
May 11	8:00	Karen Boyer
	10:30	Chuck & Kathy Ankney
May 18	8:00	Michele McLaughlin
	10:30	David & Carol Berkhimer
May 25	8:00	Stephanie Kloepfer
	10:30	Johanna Gingher & Deb Beane
June 1	10:30	Mary Alice High & Sharon Williams
June 8	10:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
June 15	10:30	Lauren & Ruth Anne Appel
June 22	10:30	Mike & Kelly Hartmann
June 29	10:30	Lea & Michele Lichty



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

Leacock Presbyterian Church
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