



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 54 - NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER 2014

Notes from the Manse

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”—Colossians 2:6

When I was in college, I had a friend who had a regular, somewhat unique way of dealing with stress. He was Jewish, so who knows, maybe it all stemmed from his faith. But whenever exams came around or a paper was due that he had only recently begun, he would wander around, muttering to himself, “This too shall pass.” And it seemed to work, so ever since then I’ve found myself in similar times saying the same words, albeit with a smile on my face. Hard times do come; we all know that. And when they do, it can become all too easy to get trapped in our worries, our anxieties, until they seem like our only reality. But in truth our lives are a mix, a kind of roller coaster, with both joy and tears. And often, even in the hardest times, if we look hard enough we will see blessings.

There is a clear call to a certain kind of life that runs through most all the epistles. If we are in Christ, we are told, then we need be kind and humble; we need to bear with others, even when they drive us crazy or don’t do things the way we would do them; we need to forgive; above all, we need to love. When the hard times come, sure, we are to turn to God: God is there, ready to hear our requests in prayer, in truth knowing them before we ever speak them. But always, it seems, in the good times and the bad, we are to be thankful. This is a message found throughout the Bible, in passages such as *Colossians 3:12-17*, *Philippians 4:4-7*, and *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*. Why, among the many kinds of sacrifices described in the Pentateuch were Thank Offerings. And it’s probably not a coincidence that in the Philippians passage, just after Paul urges us to be grateful, he tells us that the peace of God will guard our hearts, as if peace follows thanksgiving.

I believe this; I believe this with all my heart. Whenever I pray, I always say the words “Help me to be mindful of the many ways you have blessed me and may I find strength and peace in those blessings.” It kind of grounds me; even when I’m weary and discouraged, it reminds me that there have been other times, there will be again, and that even then somewhere blessing is to be found. Well, right now, I am truly abounding in thanksgiving, to you, the congregation of this church. Emily’s father’s death came suddenly or at least as a surprise. It kind of ripped us out of our vacation and immersed us so quickly in mortal illness and dying. There was no time to prepare our hearts and minds. And yet so many of you were there. So many called, sent e-mails, brought food, created space so that we could grieve and care for Emily’s family. I’m fond of saying we received a stack of cards almost a foot high. And so, I thank you, especially for your caring for Emily, but also your kindness to me. You were what we are called to be. You were the light among the shadows.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays in September

<p>Sept 7 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time) Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20</p>	<p>Sept 21 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16</p>	<p>Matthew 18:21-35 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32</p>
<p>Sept 14 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12</p>	<p>Sept 28 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16</p>	



Alba Ruhl heads CROP Walk - Community Meal News

Alba Ruhl will head this year's CROP Walk on October 19. This is Alba's third year to head the CROP Walk. Thanks to her drive and ability to work with others, the Walk has been quite successful the past two years.

Again this year, 25% of the money received will be used for local causes.

Mark your calendars and come out to make this another successful CROP Walk year.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal for this month is spaghetti and meatballs, a salad, and those great desserts from Weis Markets in Gap. Sign-up sheets will be in

the Narthex.

The tremendous and continuing support from the congregation has made these meals a success for over five years.

Our thanks and gratitude to all who have joined us in this endeavor.

24 Backpacks for PVIS

Thank you to all the members of the congregation who very generously donated to the backpack project! Your donations helped us fill 24 backpacks - our goal was 20 - for the students in need at Pequea Valley Intermediate School.

Also a big thank you to the Youth for sorting and packing the backpacks.

The cost of going back to school can be very overwhelming for many families. Everyone involved can have a great sense of well being knowing we may

have made the transition back to school a little easier for these children (and parents).

Hopefully this will become an annual event to help bridge our church and our community.

Boy How Time Flies ... Fall Work Day Is Almost Here



Please mark your calendars for October 4 - Trustee Work Day. We had a great turn out for the spring work day; let's make the Fall Work Day just as great.

Thank you to Bonnie Rice and Joann Stoltzfus for volunteering to be co-chairpersons for the Garden Task Force.

THANK YOU for everyone's support.



In Memory

Announcing our newest arrival ... In the kitchen you will find a stand-up 8-quart Commercial Kitchen Aide Mixer. It is a great addition to our updated kitchen. A very special thank you to Bonnie Rice for donating the mixer in memoriam of her mother-in-law Arlene Rice.

Arlene spent countless hours in a kitchen and she was a special

Leacock member and friend.

Thank you Bonnie for a very wonderful way for all of us to remember Arlene.



Bible Study

Arlene Brackbill's Women's Bible Study will be held on Thursday, September 11 at the home of Betty Sowers.

Prayer Families & Persons

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

- Sept 7 I. Lee Brown
- Sept 14 Lura Brown
- Sept 21 Ruth Bryson
- Sept 28 Dorothy Buckwalter



Session Snippets



Rev. Jane Busey, Leacock's liaison to Donegal Presbytery, was present at the beginning of the August 21 meeting to explain her role in connecting us to Donegal Presbytery and helping us exchange ideas with other churches.

Committee reports included good news about Leacock's ministry.

Summer Hymn Sings have been well received with 125 present in August, a record attendance.

Twenty-six children attended VBS with half of them being unchurched.

Twenty-four complete backpacks were put together for stu-

dents at PVIS with \$100 in donations left to use for emergency situations for students.

The following actions were taken:

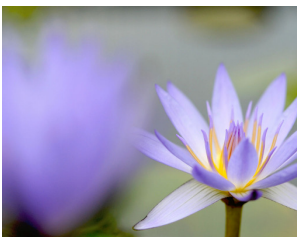
- ◆ 264 copies of the new Presbyterian Hymnal *Glory to God* have been ordered (donated to the church anonymously) and will arrive the beginning of September. A service of song and dedication is scheduled for Sunday September 28.
- ◆ The blue *Presbyterian Hymnal* will be made available to those who dedicated them in honor of or in memory of others in Fellowship Hall for thirty days after the Dedication with the balance of the hymnals donated to a church needing them.
- ◆ Congregational Meeting was scheduled for November 16 with one service of worship

to be followed by a luncheon for all church members with a special recognition of 50 year plus members.

- ◆ A Special Meeting of Session has been scheduled for September 14 following the second service of worship.
- ◆ Rev. Birch was granted vacation October 6 - 21.



Sundays Open for Flowers



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday, September 7 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Call the church office at 687-6619.





Just for KIDS

Psalm 107:1

Fill in the blanks with words that match the descriptions. Transfer the letters to the boxes below.
Read the verse from Psalms.

Shape that symbolizes "love" _____

31 15 7 18 5

Part of a stove used for baking _____

12 3 24 39

Color made by red and yellow _____

28 42 7 8 27 37

A present _____

1 32 20 11

Something a girl wears _____

19 22 43 44 33

Something you open to go into a room _____

40 29 17 47

Opposite of soft (sound) _____

34 17 41 30

To take a long walk _____

14 2 9 38

A high body temperature _____

45 50 49 48 42

Equipment used to build or fix things _____

13 35 21 16 26

Edge of the sea _____

10 23 46 51 4

Home for a bee _____

6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56

Answers: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, hive, shore, tools, hives, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever.

Old Leacock Day: Surrounded by a Cloud of Witnesses

Old Leacock Day will be held on Sunday, September 7, with one service at Old Leacock at 9:30a.m. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion together as one body in this special historic place where generations upon generations of our spiritual ancestors have worshipped.

After the service, we will gather in the courtyard for our annual church picnic, enjoying grilled

hotdogs and cold beverages supplied by the CCL Committee and covered dishes provided by the rest of us - yummy salads and desserts! All you need to bring, besides a dish to share, are chairs or a blanket for your little ones to use to enjoy their picnic lunch.

What's that? You usually go out for breakfast or lunch following the service you choose to attend? Take a break from

"usually" and join your church family for some old-fashioned fun and fellowship.

Just in case there would be rain, the meal will be held in Fellowship Hall at Paradise.



Successful CCL Sponsored Summer Outings



We had a great time of fellowship this summer with the two outings organized by the CCL

(Congregation Community Life) Committee.

Thirty-six people joined us for a night out of miniature golf and ice cream.

Seventeen enjoyed a Lancaster Barnstormers game and fireworks (even though they didn't win).

The Committee hopes to be

able to organize more events throughout the year to enhance our fellowship together outside the church building.

If you have any ideas, please communicate them to any member of the CCL Committee or place them in the "Thoughts and Ideas" box in the Narthex.

How Can We Keep From Singing?

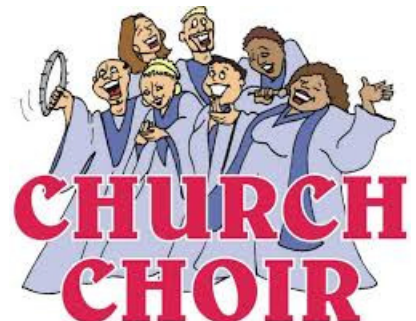
Chancel Choir begins Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

This year should be an exciting one as we explore the new hymnal and lead the congregation in learning some new hymns and service music.

When the Bell Choir resumes rehearsals, Chancel Choir practice will be moved to 7:30.

Don't be shy! Come out and lift your voice in praise and petition to our God.

For further information, contact Dianne Yuninger.



New Hymnals!



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." Psalm 100:1,2.

Leacock has always been a church that worships with music and song. And now we

have an opportunity to do so in new and exciting ways.

Our denomination recently released a new hymnal. Dianne Yuningger and Rev. Birch both attended a conference introducing it, and if they went into it at all skeptically, they left huge fans.

The hymnal contains many more hymns, yet is no heavier

than the old one. It has a wonderful mix of old favorites and contemporary hymns.

Still, Leacock had purchased the blue hymnal not so long ago and times are tight, so Dianne and Bob really didn't see a way to get the new hymnal any time soon.

But then some anonymous

(Continued on page 9)

Back to School

Youth Sunday School

We are very excited about the new format of our youth Sunday School program, which kicks off on Sunday, September 14 at 9:30.

All youth ages 3 - 8th grade are welcome to join us.

Sunday School will meet in the choir room, and then everyone

will pair off into his or her appropriate classroom, after we sing and learn a Bible story.

The theme for this year's program is Men and Women of the Bible.

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday School class will also kickoff on Sunday the 14th with two themes to be dis-

cussed: one will be lessons learned on Rev. Birch's trip to Israel/Palestine and the other will be the Christian response to sustainable living.



Books and Movies Kickoff



The book and movie group will kick off the 2014-15 church year with a discussion of the book *The Story of Beautiful Girl* by Rachel Simon.

The book is set in Pennsylvania and explores the lives of a woman with a developmental disorder, the man she loves, and their daughter.

We will meet on Sunday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. for pizza and discussion. All are wel-

come, even those who haven't read the book.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie Group
Coordinator

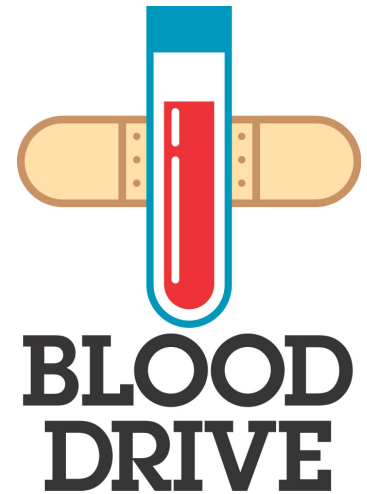
Blood Drive Schedule

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 OCTOBER 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tues, Sept 9	Yoder's Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thurs, Sept 11	Intercourse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thurs, Sept 18	Gordonville Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tues, Sept 23	LSHS	8:00am to 2:00pm
Wed, Oct 1	White Horse 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.



Leacock Women's Bible Study

The Leacock Women's Bible Study Groups will kick off the 2014-2015 church year with a dessert and discussion evening on Monday, September 8th at 7:30 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to attend to learn more about our Bible study groups and which they might like to join.



Women's Bible Study

If you would be interested in making a dessert for the September 8th meeting, please let either Marie Brackbill or Emily Birch know. We're looking for easy, finger-food-type sweets.

Thanks!

Thank You - Thank You

To My Leacock Family,
Thank you again. You have showed once again how thoughtful and kind our congregation is. I am deeply blessed to know such wonderful people as all of you. The cards, prayers, visits and meals are so very appreciated, and as I continue to heal I will keep all of you in my

thoughts and prayers as you have done for me.

Love,
Evie Lopez



Dear Friends at Leacock,
I want to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, and prayers at the time of the loss of my wife, Ella. I didn't know how much this would mean to me. It made it easier to get by each day.

Thank you,
Bob Clark

Stewardship Report - Financial Update July 2014

	<i>Offering July</i>		<i>Expenses July</i>	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Monthly Total	\$19,435	\$14,683	\$16,403	\$26,236
Year-to-Date	\$115,024	\$108,304	\$116,651	\$124,919

Budget Tracking Through July

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$226,889	\$251,276
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$116,651	\$124,919
% of Budget Spent	51.0%	50.0%

To meet our budget, we need to receive an average of \$4,363 each week. There were four Sundays in July, and we would have liked to see \$4,363 x 4 or \$17,452 received in offering for July. We were even happier to see a total offering of \$19,435 for July, which means we are \$1,983 AHEAD of our 2014 *budget* for the month of July!!! This is great news and thank you to all who were able to contribute in July! Sorry to be a bit negative but when looking at year to date (January - July) we are at \$17,328 ***behind budget***.

As far as our actual expenditure versus offering, the STRONG month of July helped us make some headway. \$116,651 has been spent and we received \$115,024 in offering. That reduces our deficit to \$1,627. Please join me in praying for strong upcoming months, so we can not only operate in the positive, but even make up some headway to our budget!

New Hymnals (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

donors appeared and offered to purchase 264 of the new hymnals, enough for both Paradise and Old Leacock.

They have been ordered and will arrive soon. We will introduce and dedicate them on

September 28th.

As for the old hymnals, the session decided to do a few things. First, any person who dedicated a hymnal and would like to keep it will be able to do so—the hymnals will be in the Fellowship Hall for some 30 days for

folks to claim theirs. Second, a few will be kept as resources.

Finally, the remainder will be donated to a church that cannot afford a hymnal. This is a wonderful gift and will give all of us many new ways to worship the Lord with gladness.

Gratitude Corner

(Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care for their Minister and His Wife)

Those of you who know me well, know that I have a rather rich fantasy life. In this fantasy life, I'm the sort of stoic woman who looks like a 1940s movie star in her black veil and handles the death of her dear father so charmingly and stoically, while caring for everyone around her, that people marvel at how well she's doing.

In reality, of course, I've been nothing like that. An introvert by nature, I've gone into my shell and have had quite a rough time of it.

However, one of the things that has helped more than anything has been the outpouring of love and support I've received from my Leacock family. Where can I even begin the thanks?

I can't name all of you individually here, as it would take up half the newsletter, but I do want to say that nothing has gone unnoticed, from text messages to emails to Facebook messages; to photos sent from the youth retreat I was so sorry to miss; to beautiful cards with such heartfelt, personal messages; food delivered to our door; flower arrangements; a prayer shawl delivered not only to me, but also to my mother; and yes, some people (you know who you are), who, never having known my father at all, made the trip all the way from here to VA to be at his memorial service as representatives of Leacock.

Bob and I have just been overwhelmed. We've cried many tears of sorrow, but mixed with them have been tears of joy, knowing how blessed we are.

You're wonderful, healing bandages on an open wound, very special people to us. So, thank you, thank you, thank you, and God bless you, you wonderful people of Leacock.

Emily Birch



Fall Youth Group Schedule

September 7:	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
September 21	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
October 5:	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
October 19:	7:00-8:30 p.m.
November 2:	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
November 16:	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
November 21:	Lockin
November 30:	Advent Family Night
December 14:	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Leacock Youth Group

Summer Fun

The Leacock youth group had another successful summer retreat at the Ruhls's cabin in July. Bob and I were sorry to miss it, but we were kept updated with text messages, and photos that proved everyone was having a good time (and eating well).

Rumor has it they went on a 20-mile hike over numerous mountains (well, maybe that's a *slight* exaggeration).

A special thanks to Mike, Alba, Charlene, and Steve for supervising the gang. The youth service originally scheduled for kickoff Sunday on September 14 has been postponed, due to the fact that Bob and I were unable to be there for planning at the retreat. However, we will still be having a youth lockin at the church this fall. The date has been changed to November 21st, and we hope to have a fun-filled night from 5:00 p.m. Friday night through 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

In August, we helped pack 24 backpacks for intermediate school children who can't afford their back-to-school supplies. Backpacks will be an ongoing theme for us this year, as later this year, we plan to pack backpacks for our next adventure into Philadelphia to make the homeless smile. One of our youth also came up with the idea of packing packs with clothes for high school students in our area who don't have more than a couple of outfits to wear. That seems like a good future project.

For the Coming Year

We're working on new fundraising projects, so keep your eyes and ears open this fall for ways you can help us earn money.

This Advent, we will be organizing Leacock Secret Santas. Those who wish to participate will draw a name and be that person's Secret Santa during Advent. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, between services, we will have a special social hour at which time Secret Santas will be revealed. More details and instructions coming in the next newsletter.

If you ever have any questions about youth group meetings, you can call or text Emily on her cell phone: 717-725-6572 or email: emilymb95@gmail.com. Those of you on Facebook can also email via Facebook mail.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, Youth Group Leaders



USHERS - September and October**8:00 Service****Ed Margerum, Head Usher****10:30 Service, (442-4027)**SeptemberTom Burkins
Vicki Burkins
Don AndrewsLinda Erickson
David Erickson
Dave Berkhimer
Carol BerkhimerOctoberDeb Sindall
Robert Sindall
Nick Lopez
Evie LopezMary Alice High
Bob Hershey
Margie Hershey
Darwin Eshleman

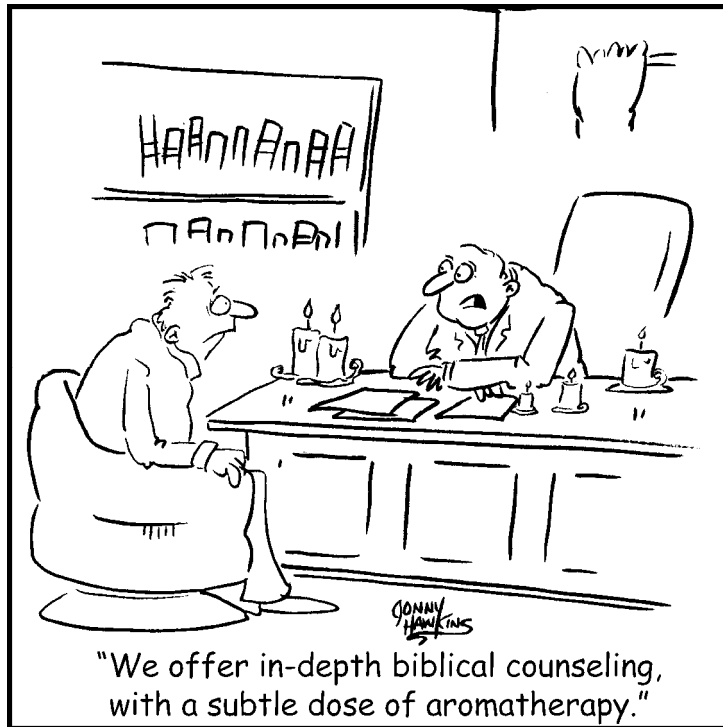
PLEASE NOTE -- If you are unable to serve the month or part of the month you are scheduled for, please try to trade with someone else and contact the head usher. They will contact the church office. THANK YOU!

NURSERY - September and October

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!

Sept 7	9:30	Old Leacock Day (no nursery)
Sept 14	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Bob & Margie Hershey
Sept 21	8:00	Donald & Christy Fieldsa
	10:30	Mary Alice High & Lea Lichty
Sept 28	8:00	Janet Huffman
	10:30	Mike Hartmann & Charlene Boas
Oct 5	9:30	
Oct 12	8:00	Scott Shenk
	10:30	Chuck & Kathy Ankney
Oct 19	8:00	Sue Funk
	10:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
Oct 26	8:00	Loretta McClarigan
	10:30	Lauren Appel & Ruth Anne Appel

**Please see separate
icon for
September Church
Calendar**



Leacock Presbyterian Church

3181 Lincoln Highway East
Paradise, PA 17562
Phone: 717 687-6619

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The Leacock Communicator
Editor - Vicki P Burkins 392-7253
vicki.burkins@gmail.com