

Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 55 - NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2015

Notes from the Manse

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

That second sentence above—it is so simple, and yet, sometimes, it can be so hard. People drive us crazy; worse they hurt us. Trouble comes into our lives and we are confused; we are afraid. Or we are alone, or at least feel so, so alone. In times such as these, the whole idea of being thankful may be the last thing that comes to our minds. But if you go to *Colossians* and read from 3:12 to 17, three times we are told to be grateful, to speak our thanks. And it isn't just there. I went back and looked at my *Notes from the Manse* over the last several years and saw that I had written about the need to be thankful at least four times and in doing so I quoted several different passages of Scripture. In our relationship with God, in our relationship with each other, there just seems to be something so important about being thankful and showing gratitude.

And I am grateful. I am grateful for many things, one of which is this church and its people. Last month, in the midst of all the usual holiday rush, Emily and I got sick, but still there was no time to stop. Just when I began to feel a bit weary, we started to receive kind words from you, so many of you, sometimes when someone stopped me after a service or in the hall when I was working in the office, other times in a card or an e-mail. There were gifts, too, including some from my Secret Santa; and there was the generous gift from the congregation as a whole. What mattered in all of this was the kindness, the taking the time to say, in one way or the other, thank you. And so now it is my turn to say to you thank you, thank you so much.

Still, it was, in many ways, a tough year. There was sickness, some of which goes on. And there was loss, as always too much loss. As a fellowship, we had to say goodbye to Warren Brackbill, Ella Clark, Doc Denlinger, Clair Hamilton, and Malcolm Stannard. And Emily and I lost her father, Wukka Michie. Yet, in the midst of the sorrow, there were moments of grace and laughter. In my visits to the hospital, I seemed sometimes to confuse the hospital folks. Once, two nurses hurried up to me and asked which practice I was from; it was tempting to look serious and say I was from some doctor's office. Another time, I was sitting with June and Malcolm when two folks came in to discuss things, and the woman in charge identified me as June's son. Well, that just delighted June and me, and ever since, she and I will on occasion call each other mom or son.

And really that isn't so crazy. On the cross, knowing Mary would be alone, Jesus looked at his mother and pointing to the beloved disciple said, “Woman, behold your son.” And he told the disciple that here was his mother. Throughout his ministry, Jesus urges us again and again to re-imagine our conception of family, to extend it beyond mere blood relations so that we love and care for all our sisters and brothers. If we did, if we really lived as if we were members of one body as the quote from *Colossians* tells us, then we would more fully know the peace to which we are called. We would know the peace of Christ. We would never be alone, no matter what. What a reason to be thankful!

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays in February

Feb 1	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Mark 1:29-39	6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-2
Feb 8	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 137:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Feb 15	Transfiguration of the Lord 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
		Feb 18	Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-
		Feb 22	First Sunday In Lent Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15



CCL Committee News



Please consider becoming a member of the CCL Committee-Church and Community Life Committee. Our goal is to enhance the life of our church family and make our church more relevant to our community with a goal of church health and growth.

Many of our church activities are planned by this commit-

tee. They include Christmas caroling, Old Leacock Day, Family Advent night, Family outings - this past year included miniature golf and attendance at a Barnstormers game - Fifty Year Member Recognition Dinner, Bridge of Hope Gift card collection, Caring Tree with Christmas presents, prayer chain, book discussions, Factory Meals, to name a few.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Your ideas and support are very important.

Our meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the church library. Please join us.

If you want more information contact Mary Alice High (687-6542), Jenny Keenan (768-0557), Robin Englehart (413-2570) or Linda Erikson (768-7551).

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 22 when there will be one Service of Worship at 9:30am followed by the Annual Meeting.

Following the meeting we will have a covered dish luncheon. Please bring your favorite salad or dessert to share. We will provide chili, rice and drinks.

Hope to see everyone there.

Lenten Study Tuesday Evenings February 24 Through March 24



This year's Lenten Study will be led by Pastor Birch, focusing on the Fruit of the Spirit and what that could look like in our daily lives.

The meetings will begin at 5:30pm with a light meal of soup and bread, but please feel free to join the group as your schedule allows.

If you would be willing to furnish two quarts of soup for

one of the evenings please sign the list in the Narthex.

Lent at Leacock
Ash Wednesday
Service of meditation
and administration
of ashes
at 12:00 noon
on February 18.



Worship Committee News

The Leacock Worship Committee will be led this year by Karen Homsher and Sharon Williams and will be meeting on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm.

We will be inviting others to join us, but feel free to "jump the gun" and volunteer. If you cannot serve on the committee, we still value your input.

Please put your ideas in writing (so we don't forget), and give them to either of us at any time during the year.

We are also hoping to find additional persons who are willing to serve as lay readers, ushers, and nursery attendants. Karen's phone # is 687-6469, and Sharon's phone # is 768-3856.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday - February 14
Youth Group Make the Homeless Smile in Philadelphia

Sunday - February 22
One Service at 9:30 followed by Annual Meeting & Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday - March 22
Leacock Book & Movie Group discuss *Orphan Train* after second service and take field trip to Train Museum for One Book, One Community party

Christian Ed Committee News

The Christian Education Committee chairperson for 2015 is Tom Burkins (392-7253) with new Session member Milt Hostetter (355-6463) assisting.

The committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the church library.

We wish to thank Karen Homsher for her service coordinating *God's Place for Kids* as she moves on to new commitments.

The committee is considering formulating a list of about five couples, or two-member

teams to be with the children in *God's Place for Kids* on a rotating basis. This is primarily a craft activity for children during a portion of the worship service.

Instructions and supplies for the activity will be supplied each week.

Please see Tom or Milt if you would be interested in helping with this worthwhile, fun endeavor.

The Christian Ed Committee would like to have two adults in attendance at all times in all youth activities. This places an

added burden on all of us to fill these positions.

Realizing that not everyone feels comfortable filling a teaching/instructing position, the second person can function as a monitor/helper. You may feel more comfortable in this position.

Please consider serving in one of these positions, either teaching or monitoring.

Thank you.



"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.



Involve me and I learn."



- Benjamin Franklin

Happy Birthday To ---

February 6
Mildred Carpenter
1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601

February 6
Ethel Danner
Apartment 113
433 S. Kinzer Avenue
New Holland, PA 17557

February 28
Miriam Latshaw
1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601



Mission Committee Report

By the time you receive this newsletter, the first community meal of 2015 will be history, and we will be moving on to the February meal to be held on Thursday, February 26th.

As in the past, the necessary sign up sheets will be found in the Narthex two weeks before the meal. Art Myers has graciously agreed to be in charge of this meal as he had to do for the January meal. I owe him a BIG debt of thanks for continuing in this position in my absence, even though his term is technically over. So kudos to you Art.

And, once again, I want to tell you all how deeply I appreciate all the willingness of this congregation in giving of their time and energy to help with these meals. The Mission Committee alone could not handle all of the work in-

volved.

Unfortunately, I have been remiss in my duties, and we missed



Blanket Sunday which we usually have in January (what better time to think about blankets!). Do not fear, with the Session's approval, we will re-schedule *Blanket Sunday* for possibly the first two weeks in April. So watch for more details later on this.

Although it seems that we just got over Christmas, we are already planning for Lent which happens to start on February 18th. As in years past, the six weeks of Lent are the six weeks that we give to the *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

Starting Sunday, February 22nd, the *One Great Hour of*

Sharing envelopes will be in the pews for your use, or you may use an envelope and mark it *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

We have been so blessed and this is a chance for us to share some of our blessings with those less fortunate than us.

Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your giving.

Thank you for your prayers and support,
May God richly bless you all,
Lois Eshleman



Thank You Note

Dear Leacock Presbyterian Church Folks,

Thank you for the cards, and also the phone calls from Rev. Birch, as I was preparing for shoulder surgery. Thanks, too, for the vase of flowers from the Deacons as delivered by

Janet Cosby.

I am so thankful that surgery was canceled at the last moment, due to the healing that occurred - PTL!

Love,
Richard Leaman Smith

Pray For

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Feb 1 | Christine Eshleman |
| Feb 8 | Darwin & Lois Eshleman |
| Feb 15 | Donald & Christy Fieldsa, Alyssa, Jesse, Logan, Juliana |
| Feb 22 | Louis & Esta Fisher |

Coming Soon...A New Pictorial Directory!

It is time again to update our pictorial directory. Jenny Keenan has agreed to take the lead in this project and is looking for volunteers interested in assisting in the planning and production of the directory.

Please contact Jenny via email or phone at the contact information listed below if you are willing to help or have

questions about this project.

We will be collecting pictures (printed or digital) of church events to include in the directory.

If you have any photos that you would like to submit, please email digital photos to: **alysarah@hotmail.com** or text them to **717-471-1448**.

Printed photos should be placed in the Church and

Community Life mailbox.

Please be sure to include what church event was photographed and an approximate date with your submission.

There will be more information to come in the future months, so stay tuned so we can make this directory an extra special one!

January Session Snippets

A “full and running over” day occurred Saturday, January 17 as the Session held their annual retreat at the Presbytery of Donegal Office in Greenfield Corporate Center.

After a meaningful devotional time sharing Scripture, personal reflections, and personal stories of our faith journeys, elders spent several hours discussing the direction in which we believe Leacock should move. We thank those of you who shared ideas with us prior to the meeting and assure you that your voices were heard.

Because of the depth of our discussions, a working lunch was felt to be in order as

committees needed time to begin planning for their work.

Poor Bob! As he tried to cover some necessary business - distributing the Book of Order and newly updated pages for the Green Book - some elders (mentioning no names, but you know who you are) opted to throw pickles and chips to those not yet having these delectable items.

No, it was not really a food fight as all items were in packets, but it did provide enough distraction so that Bob must have felt he was back supervising a high school cafeteria.

In all seriousness, your Session worked long and hard during

that day and covets your prayers for a year filled with the Holy Spirit.

Action Items:

- ◆ Dianne Yuninger appointed as Clerk of Session
- ◆ Lenten Study set for February 24 - March 24 at 5:30pm



Stewardship Report - Financial Update Nov & Dec 2014

	Offering November		Expenses November	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Monthly Total	\$21,608	\$15,134	\$14,958	\$14,726
Year-to-Date	\$183,869	\$171,703	\$182,975	\$191,378

Budget Tracking Through November

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$226,889	\$251,276
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$182,975	\$191,378
% of Budget Spent	81.0%	76.0%

	Offering December		Expenses December	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Monthly Total	\$23,705	\$26,676	\$23,688	\$25,637
Year-to-Date	\$207,574	\$198,379	\$206,663	\$216,035

Budget Tracking Through December

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$226,889	\$251,276
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$206,663	\$216,035
% of Budget Spent	91.0%	86.0%

I am so excited to report on November and December's financial numbers! At the end of October, we were behind \$5,756 in offering to actual money spent up to that point. It looked much better than the last two years, but still pretty bleak being at a nearly 6,000 dollar deficit. The generous people of Leacock made November and December two of the best months we have seen this year for offering, and

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

actually wiped out that deficit. IN FACT, we had \$911.03 more in offering than what was spent for the year. That is a HUGE positive event for us, after several years of thousands of dollars in deficit at the end of the years. Thank you, thank you, thank you Leacock Presbyterian Church. Just to put in perspective how wonderful this really is, let's look back at the last few years:

2011 (\$10,674.34) deficit (had to spend this much more than what was received in offering)
 2012 (\$9,019.01) deficit (had to spend this much more than what was received in offering)
 2013 (\$17,656.06) deficit (had to spend this much more than what was received in offering)
 2014 \$911.03 OVER EXPENSES (received more than what had to be spent)
 2015 \$ Who knows what good we can do !!

A whopping \$37,425.59 was given to Benevolence from our offering this year! Although if we hit the budget, \$40,900 would have gone to the Mission Committee to use to help others in our local area, state, country and even internationally.

I don't want to be negative, but I do need to report on how we did against the budget, which is what we *thought* we would get in offering. The budget was \$226,889, we received \$207,574 in offering, so we were behind \$19,315 in comparison to our 2014 plan. The last two years have seen a major effort to bring the budget into closer alignment with what we actually receive in offering. That has been a heart-wrenching task, as Benevolence bears a lot of the cuts. Our fixed expenses to keep a minister and employees, keep the buildings maintained, heat and cool the buildings etc... has also been examined and changes made. We are looking at changes that may save only 1 or 2 hundred dollars a year, which when compared to how far we are off budget is a drop in the bucket; HOWEVER, every bit counts and a little more will go to benevolence. We are working ever closer to a realistic budget plan that will match what we receive in offering. The Session and Trustees can only do so much planning and being good stewards. You, the congregation and friends of Leacock as a whole, as a community in Christ are what makes things happen! And you did a great job this year. Thank you all again.



LGH BLOOD DRIVES

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 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, Feb 3	Lampeter-Strasburg HS	8:00am to 2:00pm
Wednesday, Feb 4	White Horse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, Feb 11	Kinzer Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thursday, Feb 28	Parkesburg LGH Medical Bldg	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.



A Valentine's Day Smile (Leacock Youth Group)

It's hard to believe that in less than a month, the youth group will again be headed to Philadelphia to make the homeless smile.

We'll be leaving bright and early in the morning on Saturday February 14 to meet the homeless and distribute backpacks and tarps. We hope to hand out plenty of these items, but we need your help in order to do so.

We're taking donations of gently used or new backpacks and tarps, or monetary donations, if you'd prefer to contribute that way.

You can leave your backpacks and tarps in the youth lounge or in the Narthex.

Thanks in advance for your support of this project! The youth had a powerful experience when we started this last year, and I'm sure it will be the same this year.

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

Youth Group Schedule

Jan 25	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Feb 8	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sat Feb 14	8:00 am. - 3:00 p.m. trip to Philadelphia
Mar 1	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



All Aboard! (Leacock Book and Movie Group)

The Leacock book and movie group had a wonderful discussion of Chris Cleave's *Little Bee* on Sunday January 18th. Normally, we would now be scheduling a movie with similar themes to that book, but we've decided to do something a little bit different.

The One Book, One Community book for 2015 is *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline,

a novel about an orphaned teen who becomes friends with an elderly woman (in that magical spot, Mt. Desert Island, ME) and bonds with her over the woman's fascinating life story.

One Book, One Community is sponsoring a reader's celebration at the Train Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg on Sunday March 22 from 2-5

p.m., so our club, instead of meeting in the evening, will gather after second service for a light lunch and discussion before heading to the museum for the gala event. We hope you will join us for this fun excursion.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie Group
Coordinator

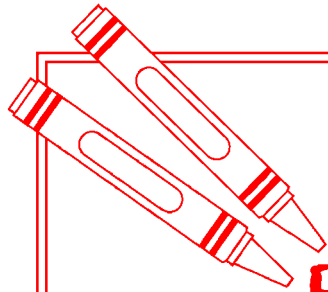


Gratitude Corner (Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care for their Minister and His Wife)

It's that time of year for me to thank all those of you who remembered Bob and me during the Christmas season. This was a particularly difficult one for us, because we were both quite sick, and my family and I were dealing with the first Christmas after my father's death. We are always touched by the cards and gifts the kind members of our congregation give us, and they certainly helped add some festive cheer to our holiday season this year. So thank you, thank you, all of you! And God Bless.

Emily Birch





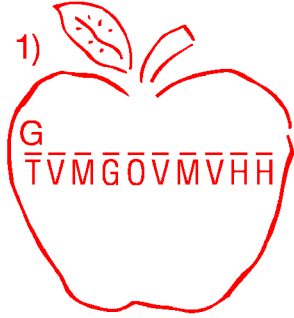
Just for **KIDS**

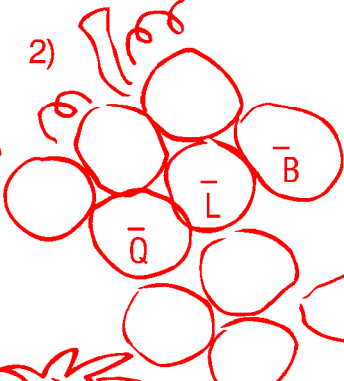
Fruits of the Spirit

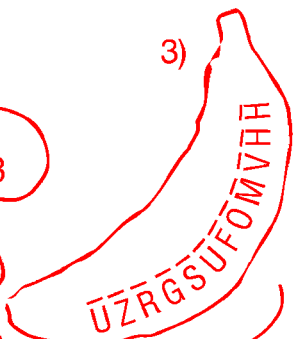
In the book of Galatians, Paul told the people to “live by the spirit” – to live God’s way. He told them what they would need to do this. These characteristics are called the “fruits of the Spirit.”


Find the "Fruits of the Spirit" using the code below.


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

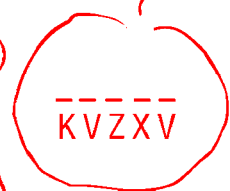
1) 
 G
 T V M G O V M V H H


2) 
 B
 L
 Q

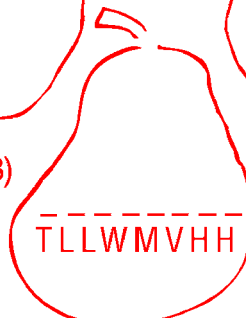
3) 
 U Z R G S U F O M V H H


4) 
 H V O U -
 X L M G T L O

5) 
 K Z G R V M X V

6) 
 K V Z X V

7) 
 P R M W M V H H

8) 
 T L L W M V H H

9) 
 O L E V

Answer: Gentleness, Joy, Faithfulness, Self-Control, Patience, Peace, Kindness, Goodness, Love

USHERS - FEBRUARY & MARCH

Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service

Ed Margerum, Head Usher
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 and contact the head usher. They will contact the church office. THANK YOU!

NURSERY - FEBRUARY & MARCH

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 1	8:00	Tom & Vicki Burkins
	10:30	Alba & Valerie Ruhl
Feb 8	8:00	Tracy Dippner
	10:30	Charlene Boas & Lea Lichty
Feb 15	8:00	Scott Shenk
	10:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
Feb 22	8:00	Deb Sindall
	10:30	Sharon Williams & Johanna Gingher
Mar 1	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
Mar 8	8:00	Donald & Christy Fieldsa
	10:30	Craig Keenan & Marie Brackbill
Mar 15	8:00	Sue Funk
	10:30	Mary Alice High & Mike Hartmann
Mar 22	8:00	Loretta McClarigan
	10:30	Chuck & Kathy Ankney
Mar 29	9:30	Michele & Sara Lichty

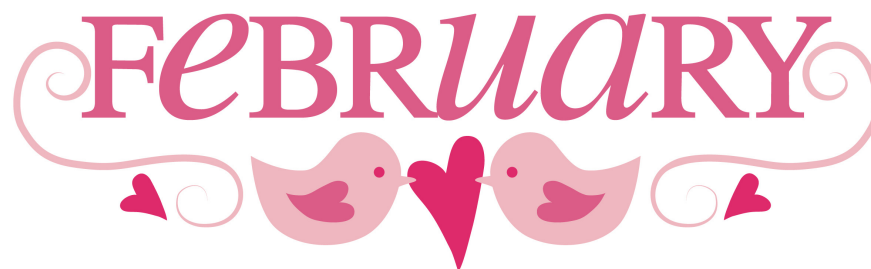


Please see separate icon
on the front page
for the February
Church Calendar

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit #951
Lancaster, PA



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