



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 55 - NUMBER 3

APRIL 2015

Notes from the Manse

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” Mark 16:7

Journeys. Think of the journeys you have taken in your life. Some of them have been physical journeys, as you traveled a long distance, a short distance, to a place well known or a place you had never seen. Other of your journeys will have been in your mind, as a movie, a book, a well told story transported you from where and who you were. There are the journeys of a lifetime, as you met people who would become friends, perhaps spouses, colleagues in some work, and you traveled with them; some are with you still; others you had to let go. Journeys can fill you with delight or fear, wonder or heartache, sometimes all together. And we are to go on journeys. It is who we are, a creature intended to grow, to change, to travel new and old roads.

We will soon end our Lenten journey. And what have you found in these 40 days? Did you enter a wilderness, a barren place in which you examined yourself, with courage, with honesty? What, if anything did you give up, what did you take on, to remind you of the journey you were on? How have you prepared for another Easter? Did you pray? Did you own up to your own brokenness, a brokenness that needs grace? Did you repent, for what you have been, for what you have not been?

This is all hard stuff. But we need to travel through that wilderness for 40 days so that we can see the cross and the empty tomb again as if for the first time. And now we journey to the foot of the cross. Two thousand some years ago, soldiers cast lots to see what they would take. What will we leave at the foot of the cross? What will we offer to our Lord? What of ourselves will we give this year to Jesus?

There was darkness at noon on that first Good Friday. But the journey didn't end there, thanks be to God. And we need to keep moving, from the darkness to an empty tomb when the day was dawning. We are told that when the women came to anoint Jesus' body and discovered he had been raised, terror and amazement seized them. That can happen on journeys. When I was a little child, I took a trip on a train to see my grandparents. That locomotive, with all its noise and size, filled me at first with fear. I seemed so small. But still I got on, I traveled those miles, I was amazed that such a thing as a train could be. And in the end, I came to a home, to my people, to safety and peace.

So many times Jesus told his disciples to follow him. And the angel told the women that Jesus had gone ahead to Galilee. Well, Jesus still calls us to follow him. He still goes ahead of us, showing the way. For you see, the journey never ends with a cross or an empty tomb. We are to keep moving, past this and every Easter. Every year, when we travel the 40 days of Lent, the week we call holy, we are to be changed, bit by bit. The day is dawning, again. We are become a new creation, for we too are raised with our Lord. Look! He goes before us; he turns and beckons us. Let us have the courage and the joy to follow him on this journey. For he is leading us home.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Reflections on a Presbytery Meeting and a Vote

On Tuesday, March 17th, Leacock hosted the stated meeting of the Donegal Presbytery. It was quite a day. So many folks came that we had to have cars parked on the drive surrounding the cemetery. Some 185 people filled our pews. There was a variety of business, including a brief celebration of the outgoing Clerk of the Presbytery, Bill Netting. But the matter that concerned most involved a vote on an amendment to the Directory of Worship of our denomination's constitution.

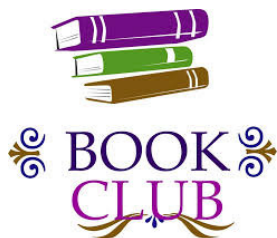
Many, if not most, of you will have heard of this vote by now. I hope it was from someone who was actually there. For the news media, unfortunately, has tended to characterize the vote in a way that might be more exciting, but is not very accurate. For instance, let me say emphatically that the vote was not, as the headline in the Sunday paper had it, a vote for same-sex marriage. The vote neither was for nor against same-sex marriage. The intent of the amendment was to clarify our constitution so that it was consistent with the Authoritative Interpretation that had already gone into effect last summer. Put simply, nothing really has changed. What happened last summer and was adopted for the constitution in this amendment was that every session and pastor were given the right to act according to their conscience in deciding whether or not to accept a same-sex marriage. No session is obligated to allow such a marriage in its church; no pastor is required to officiate at one. In every case, it is a local option to be decided by individual sessions and pastors. And all of this is consistent with what has always been in our Book of Order, an allowance for freedom of conscience.

The same day Donegal Presbytery approved the amendment by the close vote of 89 to 73, another presbytery passed it as well, which meant that the amendment received enough presbytery votes to be accepted by the denomination as a whole. There are some who are pleased by all this. Others are deeply grieving. My hope is that all of us can agree to live together even in disagreement. For it is only when we are together that we can learn from each other, we can hear other arguments, we can come to see different perspectives. When the existing language in our constitution governing marriage was approved over 20 years ago, those who opposed it stayed and continued to work for what they believed. Now that their position has been adopted, I hope those who oppose it will similarly stay and engage their brothers and sisters in dialogue. I believe it is when we are together that we are best able to discern through the Spirit the will of God. After all, Christ prayed that we be one. It's possible, you know. One of the great things, for me, about this presbytery meeting was all the people from Leacock who made it happen, from preparing a killer breakfast and lunch to parking all those cars. And many of those people did not, do not, agree on this issue. But what we could bring off together!

After Easter, there will be some time set aside after each service for questions or concerns you might have. And I would be glad to meet with anyone individually. But, for now, let me end with some of the words I prayed last Sunday in church. Dear God, we thank you for being patient with us, for we are only human. Forgive us, when we decide wrongly; bless us, when we decide wisely; guide us, so that we may grow in wisdom. Keep us together, apart from all our differences. Help us to learn to live lives of grace, listening, respecting, forgiving, helping. Always, Lord, grant us your peace.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

All Boarded and Fed! Leacock Book and Movie Group



The Leacock book and movie group had an exciting day on Sunday March 15. We met for our discussion of *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline, which, you may recall, we read

because it was the One Book, One Community pick for 2015. We talked about how none of us had known about the orphan trains before reading the book, as well as how the book really grabs the reader and doesn't let go, so well is the story told.

Then we headed to Strasburg for a special event sponsored

by OBOC at the train museum.

We also seemed to spend the whole day eating, as we had lunch while discussing the book and then had a second lunch catered by Isaacs while waiting for the very informative and fun special tour we got (we got to board one of

(Continued on page 6)

Leacock Youth to Have Their Own Weekend

April is a big month this year for the Leacock youth group. First, they will be getting up bright and early on Easter Sunday to prepare and serve your annual Easter morning breakfast for you. We'd like to thank Steve Boas (a.k.a. "the youth group's chef extraordinaire") and John Shirk in advance for volunteering to get up before dawn to help them do so. Please be sure to join us at 7:30 a.m. to celebrate our risen Lord.

The Leacock youth group's big weekend will take place April 10-12 both at the church and in Philadelphia. On April 10th, we will gather at the church for a pizza party and to practice the youth-led church services to be held on youth Sun-

day April 12. These will be very special services, and we hope everyone will attend to support their efforts to make your Sunday morning worship meaningful.

On April 11, we will finally be getting together with students from Eastern for our second annual trip into Philadelphia to make the homeless smile. Again, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed back packs, tarps, money, and other items. We're hoping to connect with new faces and maybe reconnect with some we met last year.

Youth Group Schedule

April 5: 5:00 a.m.: prepare Easter breakfast for congregation

April 10: 5:30 p.m. pizza party and youth Sunday practice

April 11: 8:00 a.m. gather at church for trip to Philadelphia

April 19: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

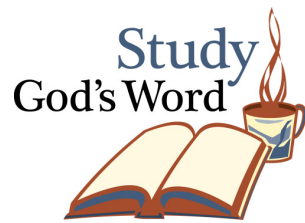
If you ever have any questions about youth group meetings, you can call or text Emily on her cell phone: 717-725-6572 or email:

emilymb95@gmail.com. Those of you on Facebook can also email via Facebook mail.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas
Youth Group Leaders



Lectionary for Sundays in April and May



Apr 1 Wed of Holy Week
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70:1-5
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Apr 2 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10)
11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Apr 3 Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22:1-31
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16,
5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

Apr 4 Easter Vigil
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18;
8:6-18; 9:8-13
Psalm 46:1-11
Genesis 22:1-18
Psalm 16:1-11
Exodus 14:10-13;
15:20-21
Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

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

I don't think I need to tell anyone what kind of a winter we've just had. We may not have gotten all that snow that everyone in Boston did, but it was definitely bitterly cold.

Long before we knew how bad it would be, though, I got a text message on my phone asking me to measure Clare. I suspected why someone might

need her measurements, and lo and behold! I was right.

Not too long afterwards, **Marie Brackbill** arrived in the parking lot one morning after the prayer shawl gathering with a lovely little sweater, which Clare made very good use of during January, February, and March.

So, thank you, Marie! Not only do you go above and beyond to care for your minister and his wife, but you also care for their little dachshund (who gets awfully shivery since she doesn't have much hair).

Emily Birch



Lectionary for Sundays in April and May (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Isaiah 55:1-11
Isaiah 12:2-6
Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6
Psalm 19:1-14
Ezekiel 36:24-28
Psalm 42:1-11 and
Psalm 43:1-5
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 143:1-12
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Psalm 98:1-9

Romans 6:3-11
Psalm 114:1-8
Mark 16:1-8

Apr 5 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8

Apr 5 Easter Evening
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 114
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
Luke 24:13-49

Apr 12 2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2

Apr 19 3rd Sunday of Easter

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Worship Committee News

We want to express our great appreciation for all who helped bring together our season of Lent and Easter: to Bob Birch for leading the Lenten Study; to Sue Funk, Scott Shenk, Karen Homsher, Sharon Williams, Tom and Vicki Burkins, Milt and Barb Hostetter, Emily Birch, and Bonnie Rice for their help with the meals; to

Loretta McClarigan, the Elders, Bob Birch, and Matthew and Shannon Rice for the special Maundy Thursday service; to Karen Shue and Lois Snader for all their attention to enhancing our spaces for the season; to Dianne Yuninger, the Chancel Choir, Karen Homsher and the Bell Choir for music; to the Leacock Youth

and their leaders for the Easter breakfast.

It takes a lot of people to carry out our ministry, so remember to thank someone who has made it more meaningful for you.



Special Offering

Special Offering in February for the Building and Facilities was \$1429.00. Those funds will be used toward the continuing upkeep of our Church. Then trustees want to thank everyone for their continued support.

Job Opening Outdoor Sexton

The trustees are looking for an **Outdoor Sexton**.

If you are interested or know anyone who may be, please contact trustee president, George Shue 717-687-7240.

Help Needed

Sunday greeters and fellowship time hosts are needed. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

If you enjoy this Sunday morning fellowship, please consider helping by preparing the coffee or a snack, or by cleaning up.

Lectionary for Sundays in April and May (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 I John 3:1-7 Luke 24:3b-48	Acts 8:26-40 Psalms 22:25-31 I John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53
Apr 26	4th Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 I John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	May 10 6th Sunday of Easter Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 I John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	May 17 7th Sunday of Easter Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 I John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19
May 3	5th Sunday of Easter	May 14 Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11	May 24 Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 or

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Mission Committee News



Mission Committee of your church continues to function with love and enthusiasm for the job which they have under

taken as the monthly free community meals continue to grow.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be finished on Easter Sunday and the envelopes will be collected from the pews.

However, the pews will not remain empty long. The last

two Sundays of April, the 19th and 26th will be designated as our belated Blanket Sunday Offering.

Through the Church World Service these blankets will be sent where they are needed most. Today \$5 does not buy much...but will still buy a blanket.

All Boarded and Fed! Leacock Book and Movie Group - (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

the trains normally off-limits to the public).

Our next meeting will be a pot luck and movie. Stay tuned for announcements about what we'll be watching—trying to stick to themes either from

Little Bee or *Orphan Train* — suggestions welcome! — and when it will be.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie Group
Coordinator



Lectionary (continued)*(Continued from page 6)*

Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:22-27 or
 Acts 2:1-21
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 31 Trinity Sunday
 Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 29
 Romans 8:12-17
 John 3:1-17

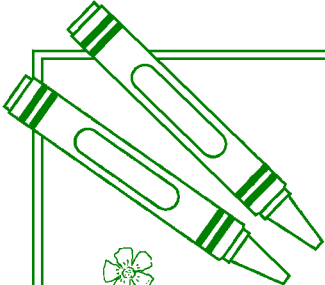
FlowersAltar Flowers

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday April 19 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.

Pray For



Apr 8	Ehren Graybill
Apr 12	Betty Hamilton
Apr 19	Shirley Harsh
Apr 26	Michael & Kelly Hartmann, Owen, Nora





Just for KIDS



Joyful Psalms



 Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are joyful songs!
 They all begin and end with the same sentence.

*Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares.
 Read down the second column to see the sentence from Psalms.*

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

A				

Answer: _ _ _ _ _ !

Stewardship Report - Financial Update February 2015

	<i>Offering February</i>		<i>Expenses February</i>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$12,785	\$14,811	\$15,038	\$15,254
Year-to-Date	\$28,479	\$28,737	\$31,646	\$31,763

Budget Tracking Through February

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$31,646	\$31,763
% of Budget Spent	14%	14%

We had some bad weather Sundays in February, which affects attendance and consequently the offering amounts, as you can see. Only \$12,785 for February, about two thousand dollars less than February of last year. If you did miss a Sunday or two or three in February, please consider “catching up” from the Sundays you were not at Church. We had a strong January, was hoping to keep that rolling into February, but there is no stopping Mother Nature. Otherwise, the performance for this year looks eerily similar to 2014. We are currently in a situation where we are close to \$3,000 behind in offering to spending, for January and February.

As you may have seen in the bulletins of late, we are asking for the per capita payments to be made. This year's per capita amount is \$32 per **member**. The total amount we will pay to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly in per capita is \$6,762. This is paid in quarterly installments of \$1,690.50. We have already made our first payment in January. Through the end of February, we have received \$1,875 in per capita payments. PLEASE check your giving envelope boxes for the per capita envelopes, put your payment in it and drop it in the offering plate this Sunday. If you won't be at Church, feel free to mail it in as well!

Answer: Praise the Lord!

Thank You Note



Dear Leacock Family,

We are so grateful for all of your prayers and expressions of concern as we said goodbye to our dad Lee

Brown.

Thank you to Bob for your many visits and for the beautiful remembrance of our dad's life and for conducting the funeral service.

Thank you to Margy Hershey and Betty and Gene Sowers for your faithful visits.

Thank you to all those who helped with the preparation, serving, and clean-up of the wonderful luncheon after the service.

We are grateful to all of you for your expressions of Christian love.

Phyllis Johnson, for the family of
I. Lee Brown



Thank You Note

Dear church family,

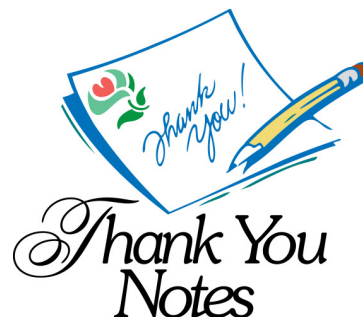
The Funk family would like to thank you for the flower deliveries. They were lovely and the gesture was very thoughtful.

We also appreciated the kind and thoughtful notes we received. It is truly a joy to be part of such a caring congregation.

I'm not sure who delivered the flowers March 8th, but you should have stayed for the party!

Ron turned 70! Of course, I'm married to a much older man – right Betty?

Ron, Sue, Steve,
Mike and Megan Funk



Thank You Note



Dear Friends,
Many thanks for the

prayers and get well cards from the members and friends at church to me during my time recovering from my mild stroke.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a bouquet of the church flowers two times, and they were greatly appreciated.

Hopefully, I will soon be able to come to worship at church.

Arlene Brackbill



Fun at Camp Donegal

The water pounds down on your head feeling more like ice water than creek water. All around you are laughing, screaming friends enjoying the waterfall, but just as startled by the coldness of the water. As you look downstream you are amazed by how green everything is! There isn't a house or a road or a bike or an electric wire in sight!

On the hike down you hadn't really noticed because all you could think about was the picnic lunch at Lock 12 Park. That sub tasted really good!

But now that you're hiking back up and wading in the stream with your friends and standing under a waterfall... This is great! And you still get to go swimming in the pool later!

Come get wet at Camp Donegal this summer. Brochures are available at the back of the sanctuary or visit us online at CampDonegal.org.

The Christian Education Committee is please to announce that, again this year, Leacock will assist parents by paying 50% of the cost of a week of summer camp at Camp Donegal.



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 APRIL 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday, Apr 2	Intercourse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tuesday, Apr 7	Yoder's Country Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, Apr 8	White Horse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, Apr 22	Kinzer Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tuesday, Apr 28	Lampeter-Strasburg High School	8:00am to 2:00pm

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 - APRIL AND MAY

Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service

Ed Margerum, Head Usher
10:30 Service, (442-4027)

April

Art Myers
Nick Lopez
Evie Lopez

Mary Alice High
Bob Hershey
Margy Hershey
Darwin Eshleman

May

Ralph Shank
Robin Englehart
Dean Englehart
Tracey Dippner

Charlene Boas
Steve Boas
Lori Smith
Shirley Smith

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 - APRIL AND MAY

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!

Apr 5	9:30	Alba & Valerie Ruhl
Apr 12	8:00	Scott Shenk
	10:30	Charlene Boas & Lea Lichty
Apr 19	8:00	Tom & Vicki Burkins
	10:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer
Apr 26	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Sharon Williams & Johanna Gingher
May 3	8:00	Donald & Christy Fieldsa
	10:30	Sean & Maureen Carney
May 10	8:00	Sue Funk
	10:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
May 17	8:00	Loretta McClarigan
	10:30	Michele & Sara Lichty
May 24	9:30	Craig Keenan & Marie Brackbill
May 31	8:00	Scott Shenk
	10:30	Chuck & Kathy Ankney



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

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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Lancaster, PA



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