



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 55 - NUMBER 2

MARCH 2015

Notes from the Manse

“And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts.” Mark 1:12, 13

This is the account in *Mark* of Jesus’ days in the wilderness. As always in this, the first Gospel written, the tale is told in a sparse way missing from *Matthew* and *Luke*, in which there are detailed descriptions of the temptations of Christ. There is an on-rushing feeling in *Mark* as the book moves towards Easter. It seems to say that time matters, and maybe it does. We have entered the season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, 40 days if you exclude the six Sundays, which are in a way little Easters. And it is good to stop, take the time to ask ourselves, what, if anything, does Lent mean to us? Why do we mark these 40 days? How do we mark them? How should we?

It’s a curious thing. Jesus has just been baptized. The Holy Spirit has descended like a dove and marked him for the hard work to come. He has heard a voice from heaven calling him beloved, Son. All this is glory. But then. *Mark* tells us that the Spirit, which had just blessed him, now, immediately after the glory, drives Jesus into the wilderness. No invitation; no gentleness. You can almost feel a strong wind pushing this beloved Son out into the wild. And there Jesus will stay, fasting *Matthew and Luke* tells us, for 40 days and nights. He wasn’t completely alone. No, Satan was there tempting him. And there were the wild animals. We don’t know really what that was all about, but it doesn’t seem they were threatening him—it says he was *with* them, as if somehow they understood what being in the wilderness meant.

Well, what have been your wilderness days? What have been the times when all the busyness of daily life, all the rush of people and things to do, were gone and there was just a dry, hard wind all about you? When have you been tempted? How? By whom or what? All this sounds pretty harsh, and it is. But Lent, strangely, invites us to enter a wilderness of sorts, just like Jesus. And in that barrenness, in that quiet, we are to search ourselves, try for, perhaps, a little more honesty than usual about who we are, how we fall short, how we fall. Lent is a time of preparation through prayer, confession, repentance. Why? So we can remind ourselves just what Good Friday and Easter are all about, how much we need them. So we can better appreciate grace.

Traditionally, during Lent, Christians either have given up or taken on something as a practice of penitence. What might we give up? Well, *Isaiah* suggests that the fast the Lord wants includes ending all bullying, all quarrelling and fighting, the all too easy finger pointing as we are quick to judge and blame others (not ourselves of course). Maybe all that is what we should give up. What might we take on? Well, the Spirit is the one who drove Jesus into the wilderness, who drives us too. So maybe we should take on the fruit of the Spirit. Maybe we should strive to love, rejoice, be patient and kind, be faithful and gentle, controlling all those impulses that hurt and divide. If we did such a thing maybe we would find the last of the Spirit’s fruit, peace. And maybe, just maybe, we could carry that peace past the 40 days into a new, Easter life.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays in March and April



Mar 1 Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Mar 8 Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Mar 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Mar 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or
Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Mar 29 Passion/Palm Sunday
Palms: Mark 11:1-11
or
John 12:12-16
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15; 47 or
Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

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Worship Committee News



The first focus of the Worship Committee this year is our celebration of Lent and Easter. Please save the half-page colored insert in your newsletter so you can fully participate in

this important part of the church year.

As we move into the following months we are looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about what you find most meaningful in worship.

Your comments and questions can be given to any of our members: written ones are the

most helpful. Our members at present are Sharon Williams and Karen Homsher, elders; Lois Snader, Sue Funk, Scott Shenk, and Loretta McClarigan, lay members.

We are hoping to add more interested people to our ranks, so don't hesitate to volunteer if you have an interest in this area.

Memorial Garden

This Spring the Memorial Garden Committee will be reorganizing the Garden and planting more colorful flowers than in the past. This will not only be more colorful but, hopefully, attract more birds, butterflies, and flying creatures for you to sit and watch and

enjoy.

The budget for the Garden is small and if you would like to contribute to this cause (plants are not always cheap), please make a donation to the Memorial Garden.

We are also looking for a few large pots to put some par-

ticular plants in and add to the overall appearance.

Thank you.

Memorial Garden Committee



Lectionary for Sundays in March and April (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Mar 30 Mon of Holy Week
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Mar 31 Tue of Holy Week
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36



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

(Continued on page 4)

Family Fun

The CCL (Church Community Life) Committee would like to plan a few church-wide family activities (think miniature golf!). If you have suggestions, pass them on to a committee member or join them at their meeting the first Monday of every month.

Contact Mary Alice High (687-6542) for more information.

Think Spring

The trustees are planning a **Work Day on Saturday, April 4th beginning at 8:00 am.** Please consider coming out to help.

If you see anything that needs attention or repair at the church buildings or property, please contact one of the Trustees. Thank you.

All Aboard!

Reminder (Leacock Book and Movie Group)

The One Book, One Community book for 2015 is *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline, a novel about an orphaned teen who forms an unlikely friendship with an elderly woman, bonding with her over the woman's fascinating life

(Continued on page 4)

Teachers Needed

Easter is the end of the winter session of Sunday School and the beginning of the spring session which runs through May.

Teachers are needed for the spring session. Please give prayerful consideration to helping out.

If interested contact Tom Burkins (392-7253) or Milt Hostetter (355-6463). Thank you.

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 March and April (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

	John 18:1-19:42	Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18	Romans 6:3-11
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	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	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

(Continued on page 5)

February Session Snippets



Never let it be said the Session shies away from weather related obstacles. On possibly

one of the coldest nights of 2015, elders gathered (shivering) in Timlow Library for their stated meeting. (Let it be known Tom Burkins was basking in 80 degree weather in Puerto Rico, and Lois Eshleman was in Florida, but both were forgiven and excused).

- ◆ Changing the information on the outdoor sign was

added to the secretary's job description.

- ◆ The 8:00 a.m. service will be staffed with three rather than four ushers.
- ◆ Tom Burkins will serve as 8:00 a.m. Beadle with Skip Brackbill filling in as needed

(Continued on page 5)

All Aboard

(Continued from page 3)

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 eve-

ning, 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



Lectionary for Sundays in March and April (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Mark 16:1-8

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

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

John 20:19-31

Apr 19 3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
I John 3:1-7
Luke 24:3b-48

Apr 26 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
I John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



February Session Snippets (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

- ◆ Plans for a new Church Directory are moving forward.
- ◆ Marie Brackbill was named as Session representative to the Church Nominating Committee.
- ◆ Stewardship Committee reported the Church Audit

was successfully completed Feb. 2.

- ◆ Elders and Deacons will meet with the Acts 16:5 Committee March 8.
- ◆ Skip Brackbill will be asked to form an Ad Hoc Committee to plan celebrating the 275th anniversary of Leacock.

- ◆ Logistics for the March 17 meeting of Donegal Presbytery to be held at 9:30 a.m. at Leacock were discussed.
- ◆ The next Session meeting is March 24 with the Board of Deacons

Summer Camp

Believe it or not, the 2015 summer camping season is right around the corner.

Christian Camping may be the most effective means of Christian nurture available to children, youth and families in the church today. For more than

55 years Camp Donegal has been offering quality, safe, fun summer programs for children and youth.

The Christian Education Committee is pleased 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.

Brochures can be found in the back of the church.



Still Smiling (Leacock Youth Group)

Well, due to the very cold temperatures and possibility of snow, the youth group didn't make it into Philadelphia on Valentine's Day, but we're smiling, because this gives everyone in the congregation time to make more donations of gently-used or new backpacks (we have plenty of tarps now, so no need for those) and money before our "rain date" of April 11. We had to wait

until April, because the youth of this church are very busy, and that was the first date it seemed the majority could make it. Thank you to all those of you who have already donated to this cause. We're humbled by your generosity!

At our February 22 youth group meeting, we hosted two visitors. Sean Gray brought his gecko Rexie, and Sara Lichty

brought her rabbit B-Mo. I wonder how many other youth groups in this country have ever hosted such guests? Leacock proves that it's a welcoming environment for all of God's creatures. By the end of the evening, one in which we actually had a discussion about the temptation of allowing fear to have too much influence over our choices in life, even

(Continued on page 8)

Coming Soon to Leacock - A New Picture Directory



Plans are being finalized for picture dates in early June.

We also need any photos you may have of church activities.

The directory will be part of our celebration of the 275th anniversary of Leacock so any ideas are welcome.

Contact Jenny Keenan (768-0557) or Dianne Yuninger (442-8379).

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday March 22:

Leacock Book and Movie Group discuss *Orphan Train* after second service and take field trip to Train

Museum for One Book, One Community party

Flowers

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday March 15 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.

At Home Birthday

Mar 22

Jean Beane

2001 Harrisburg Pike

Lancaster, PA 17601

Pray For

Mar 1 Michael Funk
 Mar 8 Ronald & Susan Funk
 Mar 15 Stephen Funk
 Mar 22 Robert & Johanna Gingher
 Mar 29 Richard & Marie Glass

Stewardship Report - Financial Update January 2015

	<i>Offering January</i>		<i>Expenses January</i>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$15,694	\$13,926	\$16,608	\$17,032
Year-to-Date	\$15,694	\$13,926	\$16,608	\$17,032

Budget Tracking Through January

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$16,608	\$17,032
% of Budget Spent	7%	7%

For 2015, we have set a budget of \$225,312. To meet our budget, we need to receive an average of \$4,333 each week. For January, we didn't quite reach this. We received \$15,694 versus the hopeful \$17,332 needed to keep on track with our budget. When we compare our expenses of \$16,608 to the offering income of \$15,694, we see we are at a deficit of \$724 for the month. This isn't too bad at this the first month of the year, we have plenty of time to make it up. On the positive side, we are much higher this January in offering than January of 2014! We have had some bad weather Sundays, which really affects attendance and consequently the offering.

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 January, we have received \$1,233 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!

Still Smiling (Leacock Youth Group) (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

those in the room who'd been a little squeamish about touching a gecko (she really was docile and sweet) were doing so, and B-Mo had possibly had more petting than he's ever had in his life.

EASTER BREAKFAST

The youth will be serving their traditional Easter breakfast on Easter morning (Sunday April

5th) in the fellowship hall at the church, before the 9:30 service. Please join us in this festive event. The youth work hard (and rise early!) to make sure you get a delicious meal to kick off your Easter Sunday.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Don't forget that April 12th (the day after the youth go to Philadelphia) is youth Sunday at Leacock. The members of the

youth group will lead us in worship at both services that day. This is always a special day, a time for you to hear from our young people and to share their walks of faith with them, so we hope to see you at church that day.



Mission Committee News

For the next five weeks, until Easter, we will be collecting our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The money collected will help those living in third world countries. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts will help provide safe water and food, will help people build up their own livelihoods and will provide money needed

to respond to disasters. Your gifts will change lives, change communities, and, ultimately, change the world. Your gifts provide the core funding to support many collaborative projects, such as wells and sand dams, and bring attention and resources to places that don't often command public and media attention. One

Great Hour of Sharing is a unique way of joining Presbyterians across the globe as they continue to share Christ's love.

Community Meals

The next community meal will be served on Thursday, March 26. As always, the doors will

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Thank You Note

What words best describe the congregation of Leacock Presbyterian Church? Caring, thoughtful, wonderful and loving are just a few Bob and I can think of at this time.

The prayers, phone calls, cards flowers and contacts are greatly appreciated.

Even though he had to return to have two stents put into the leg he had surgery on, he is doing well, and we want to thank all of you for thinking of us

God Bless All of You,
Geri & Bob Lutz

Bible Study

The women's Bible study will be meeting on Monday, March 16, at 7:30am in fellowship hall. The lesson is "Reconciliation and The Whole Creation." It is based on 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:10.

All women are welcome.

Thank You Note

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

This is a long overdue thank you for all the kindnesses and love that I have received for the past several months, from Malcolm's hospitalization and the need for transportation to the hospital and nursing home to visit him. THANK YOU!

There were also the many cards, prayers and food before and after his passing. The car-olers were a welcomed blessing as were the poinsettias and

flowers that I received. Betty Sowers came to visit with 3 lovely prayer shawls, for myself and our 2 daughters.

Bob was with our family and myself, offering time, encouragement and support through our difficult time, and my hospitalization. Our family and friends greatly appreciated the beautiful service he had for Malcolm.

Within a month of this all taking place, I felt the same love and support from everyone

when I was hospitalized and had pacemaker surgery.

When I returned home, Karen Homsher came to visit with delicious homemade soup, and there were many get well cards.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A WONDERFUL, LOVING FAMILY.

God bless you,
With love,
June Stannard



EASTER PLANTS

Easter plants may be placed in memory of someone deceased or in honor of someone living. Please complete and return this form and money to the church office by Sunday, March 22 or sooner. The ones remembered and by whom will appear in the Easter bulletin. Remember to advise the church if you plan to leave your plant(s) to be taken to an at-home member.

I/We _____

wish to order

“ Mini Daffodils \$5.00

“ Hyacinths \$6.50

“ Tulips \$6.50

in Memory of _____ or

in Honor of _____

Please place a (ü) if your plant(s) is to be taken to an at-home member by our deacons _____

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT BY SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Mission Com (cont)

(Continued from page 8)

be open at 5:15. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex two weeks before that date. Everyone in the community is most welcome. All of your help, in both providing the necessary food, the preparing and serving of the food, and cleaning up shows your love and willingness to serve others, as Christ has commanded us to do. Thank you so much.

Youth Schedule

March 8: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
March 22 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

(Any youth who would like is welcome to join the book and movie discussion group's trip to the train museum for the One Book, One Community field trip, leaving the church at 1:30 p.m.)

April 5 Easter Sunday
no youth group

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

Gratitude Corner

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

My mother celebrated her birthday on February 8. As many of you may have guessed, it was a little bit difficult for her this year, and I announced it in the Joys and Concerns at church that Sunday.

Afterwards, I was humbled by a member of the congregation who came up to me and asked me for her address, so she could send her a card.

That sort of love and generosity is what makes this church so special.

So, God bless you, **Ginny Stauffer**, for being so

thoughtful and for remembering my mother. I'm sure she's appreciative.

Emily Birch



Give Blood...



Give Life.

GIVE BLOOD



SAVE LIFE

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 2015

Date	Place	Time
Tuesday, Mar 3	Marriott Court Yard at Greenfield	11:00am to 4:00pm
Wednesday, Mar 4	Gordonville Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thursday, Mar 5	Yoder's Country Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tuesday, Mar 31	Bareville 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.

GIVE BLOOD



SAVE LIFE

Give Blood...



Give Life.

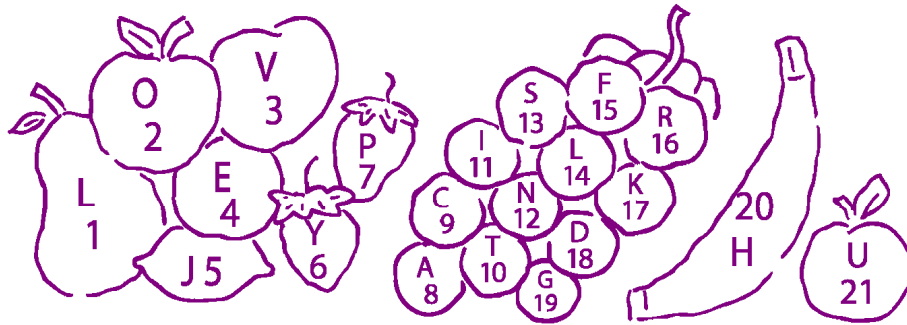


Fruit of the Spirit

In the summer we watch flowers, vegetables and fruit grow from tiny seeds and buds. That is also how we grow as children of God – from tiny beings. And as we grow, we need to grow “fruit of the Spirit.” In Galatians 5:22-23 we read about those “fruit of the Spirit.”

Find the “fruit of the Spirit.”

Write the letter from each fruit onto the numbered lines below.



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
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7	8	10	11	9	2	12	10	16	2	1	17	11	12	18	12	4	13	13	
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19	2	2	18	12	4	13	13	15	8	11	10	20	15	21	14	12	4	13	13
<hr/>				<hr/>				<hr/>				<hr/>							
19	4	12	10	14	4	12	4	13	13										

Answer: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness.

USHERS - MARCH & APRIL

Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service

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

March

Tom Burkins
Vicki Burkins

Linda Erickson
Lois Snader
David Erickson
Forrest Boas

April

Art Myers
Nick Lopez
Evie Lopez

Mary Alice High
Bob Hershey
Margy 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 - MARCH & APRIL

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 1	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Bob & Margy Hershey
Mar 8	8:00	Donald & Christy Fieldsa
	10:30	Craig Keenan & Michele Lichty
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	Marie Brackbill
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



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

Leacock Presbyterian Church

3181 Lincoln Highway East
Paradise, PA 17562

Phone: 717 687-6619

Non-Profit

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Permit #951

Lancaster, PA

**Important
Announcement**

**Rescheduled
Annual Meeting**

As a result of the winter weather, we did not have a quorum at the February 22 Annual Meeting.

We did go over the reports, but no action could be taken.

Therefore, the Session calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of receiving annual reports, voting on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and considering any other business brought before the congregation/corporation for Sunday, March 15 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service of worship.

The Leacock Communicator
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