



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 55 - NUMBER 4

MAY 2015

Notes from the Manse

*“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.” –Cecil Alexander*

As I write this, it is the week of Earth Day. Now, it's true, as Skip Brackbill said last Sunday, that really every day is or should be Earth Day. But it is good to have a day set aside so that we can reflect, from all our different perspectives, on God's good creation. Usually, I begin my Notes with a quote from Scripture. But this time, I was moved instead to quote a hymn—and there were so many to choose from. Just think of “God of the Sparrow,” “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty,” “Let All Things Now Living,” to name a few. And these hymns aren't some departure from Scripture. No, in fact, “All Things Bright and Beautiful” echoes *Psalm 104*, which, in v. 27, says, “O Lord how manifold are your works! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” We believe in a Creator who created this and all worlds and pronounced them good. So, yes, it is fitting we stop at least one day and consider creation.

If we do, this in turn brings our attention to the Creator and kind of calls for a response. Most of you know how much I revere Francis of Assisi and many probably have heard how he preached to the birds. But did you know the content of that sermon? It was to urge the birds to sing out in praise to their Creator, grateful for their song and bright colors. And later, not too long before he died, Francis wrote a poem we've turned into a hymn and that begins “All creatures of our Lord and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!” Sun, moon, earth—all are to sing praises. And we understand what he was saying, don't we? For some, it comes in birding, waiting, looking for, a flash of beauty. For others, it comes watching snow fall, listening to the rain, looking for the first bud of the year. I knew a guy whose wife told me that he couldn't hit the broadside of a barn, that half the time he'd forget he had his rifle, that really he went out just to sit in a blind and watch the woods around him. There's that great feeling of standing on a mountaintop, with half the pleasure coming from the journey there.

But there is a problem. Paul, in *Romans 8*, speaks of creation groaning, subject to futility and decay, longing for the revealing of the children of God. God's creation is hurting, and all the creatures in it. And we, we should care. In truth, we are called to do something about it. Consider the verse in *Genesis 2* that says Adam was put in the garden to till and keep it. The Hebrew words for “till” and “keep” can also mean to serve and preserve. We are to be God's caretakers, stewards of creation. And if you look at the hymns I've quoted and think of the verse from *Psalm 104*, you'll notice the word “all.” All, the psalm later says, look to the Lord for food, for the breath of life itself. And that “all” refers to all creatures, including us. Before God, we are all one; before God, we are sisters and brothers, and we are called by our Lord to love and care for our sisters and brothers. So, let us resolve on the occasion of this year's Earth Day to value creation, to remember whose it is, and to help heal it. For if we do, we will heal ourselves. And we will be reminded of what another hymn says—“For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.”

--Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary for Sundays in May and June

May 3	5th Sunday of Easter Acts 8:26-40 Psalms 22:25-31 I John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	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 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 14	Ascension of the Lord	May 24	Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 or
		May 31	Trinity Sunday Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

(Continued on page 3)

Trustees News

Special Offering - The Building and Facilities Fund for the month of May will be used towards the repair and maintenance of the parking lot. Envelopes can be found in the pews or your offering envelope box.

Key Lock Box and Security Measures – A new Key Lock Box and Security Measures have been installed on the

north door - if you need to have the combination, please contact – George Shue, Dave Berkhimer or the church secretary.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to the anonymous donor who paid for the Key Lock Box and Security Measures.

Work Day – It was a cold, windy day, but sunny - the trustees would like to Thank all of those who came out to help!



Worship Committee Notes

The Peace of Christ be with you...and with you.

This blessing, passed between brothers and sisters in Christ, is a truly holy one, and we have tried to include it in a meaningful way in our services. At present, it follows the benediction which seems

to be a scattering and chattering time instead.

We would like to place it after the Creed, affirming not only our faith in God, but also our relationships in the church family. Please exchange this blessing with those sitting closest to you.

We also need a time to greet our church family and welcome visitors. The greeting time will follow the announcements and end at the time for the Prelude.

One further change—in an effort to free up more members to serve in other areas,

(Continued on page 4)

Lectionary for Sundays in May and June (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

June 7 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

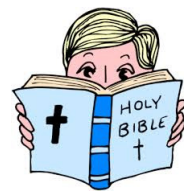
June 14 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 21 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49
Psalm 9:9-20 or
1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16
Psalm 133
2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

June 28 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43



Musician Appreciation Sunday



Please join us on May 17th as we celebrate and thank our church musicians at a reception in the Narthex after each service of worship.

Show your appreciation for the many hours they commit to rehearsing and presenting music to add beauty and meaning to our services.



May Hymn of the Month



Our new hymn for May is the beautiful *In the Bulb There is a Flower*, subtitled *Hymn of Promise*, (#250).
Composer Natalie Sleeth originally was inspired by the

poet T. S. Eliot and his line: In my end is my beginning. However, shortly after she completed the piece, her husband was diagnosed with what proved to be terminal cancer. The original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

Read the words to the hymn, and during our continuing Eastertide may you reflect on the truth the resurrection gives us and may your faith be strengthened. Let us sing with great joy!

April Session Snippets

The Session and Trustees met together in April to share information about the work of each board. The Trustees are working hard to prioritize projects which continue to come to their attention: repaving/repairing the parking lot, replacing the H-VAC unit in the choir room area, replacing the manse furnace, trimming large trees on the property, fixing a

leak in the elevator. As stewards of our finances and property, the Trustees are consistently aware of physical plant needs and limited monetary resources and strive to maintain a balance between both.

The Session shared the work of the Child Protection Task Force, the growing numbers at the Community Meal, and the plan for a new church direc-

tory.

Following delicious refreshments provided by the Trustees, the boards adjourned to their separate meetings.



(Continued on page 5)

Mission Committee News



Our community meals are growing and growing. During the last two months, we have served around 110 community people a delicious, healthy meal. And that's not counting

the people who help set up and prepare the meal. This means that we are actually serving approximately 130-140 people each month! We appreciate all the physical help and donations of food items from everyone. Without this help and support of everyone in this church, we could never complete this mission.

The Pentecost Offering will be collected on two Sundays in May—the 17th and 24th. This offering helps the PCUSA ministries and programs. A donation to the Pentecost offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

(Continued on page 5)

Worship (cont)

(Continued from page 2)

we will try using two ushers in addition to our head ushers. Please direct any feedback to the head ushers (Skip Brackbill or Ed Marjoram) or Karen Homsher (Chair of Worship Committee).

New Church Directory

The Church and Community Life Committee is designing a new Church Directory to tell Leacock's story as we celebrate our 275th year of ministry.

The directory will not be complete without YOU. Photos are scheduled to be taken

June 2 and 3 from 2 to 9pm at the church. For participating, you will receive a free 8 x 10 color photo and a directory. Additional pictures may also be bought; however, there will be NO PRESSURE for such a purchase. Appointment sign

(Continued on page 6)

Mission (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Forty percent of this offering is retained by individual congregations wanting to make and impact in lives of young people in their own community. These special envelopes will be in the pews on the appropriate Sundays. Please take one and fill it as you feel you can.

Flowers

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays May 24 or May 31 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.



Pray For

- May 3 Austin & Kristin Hayes, Finley
- May 10 Robert & Margaret Hershey
- May 17 Geraldine Hess
- May 24 Mary Alice High
- May 31 David & Karen Homsher

April Session Snippets (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Session business items included the following:

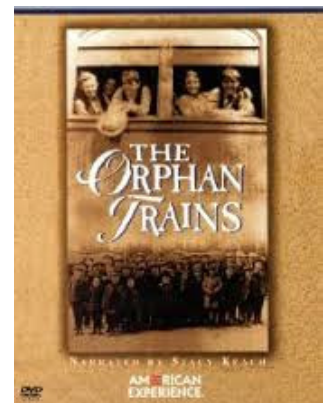
- ◆ Using two ushers plus the head usher at both services for a trial period the first two weeks in May.
- ◆ Changing the Order of Worship to include a time of greeting after the announcements and before the Prelude and placing Passing the Peace following the Creed.
- ◆ Scheduling a reception of appreciation for church musicians following both services May 17.
- ◆ Paying the cost of background checks for volunteers and staff working with children as required by the new PA law.
- ◆ Purchasing copies of the new directory to place in the pews at Paradise.
- ◆ Scheduling Stewardship Sunday May 17.

More About Orphans and Trains (Leacock Book & Movie Group)

Following the success of our train museum field trip, the Leacock book and movie group will meet on Sunday June 7 to watch the movie *The Orphan Trains*. This will be a great opportunity for those of you who neither read the book nor were able to go to

the museum to learn about this fascinating piece of American history. Please join us for a pot luck supper before the viewing.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie Group
Coordinator



Child Protection Law Update

I am sure that most of you have already heard rumblings about the new state requirements for clearances for all child care workers both professional and volunteers.

The Child Protection Task Force has been in place in our church for some time, waiting most recently on the Presbytery interpretation of State Law. We have now received this interpretation.



The Christian Ed Committee, in conjunction with the Task Force, has created a plan for our church to become compliant with State Law. The safety of our children has always been our highest priority.

We have identified approximately 50 people within our congregation, who, if we are to continue our present programs, would need to obtain clearances. Some of these people already have obtained their clearances because of their occupations.

The deadline to become compliant is June 30, 2015. The committee hopes that all in-

(Continued on page 7)

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 MAY 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wednesday, May 6	Bird-in-Hand Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thursday, May 14	Yoder's Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thursday, May 28	Intercourse Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavilion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00am to 7:30pm. For more information call 544-0170.



New Church Directory (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

ups will begin April 26 and continue for the first two Sundays in May. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex. The photo company is offering a 5% discount (\$5.00) on purchases to anyone who brings in a donation for the Food Bank at The Factory.

The committee also needs candid pictures of church activities to include in Leacock's story. Pictures will be returned if you have them to share.

Anyone who has questions should contact Jenny Keenan (768-0557) or Dianne Yuninger (442-8379).

Church Office Hours

Rev. Birch's Office Hours
Are
Monday - Thursday
3:00 - 6:30pm
The Secretary's Hours
Are
Tuesday - Friday
8:30am—12:00noon

Child Protection Law Update (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

involved will understand the importance of this requirement and will be willing to obtain the required clearances. This will involve those who help out with children in such things as God's Place For Kids, Sunday School or Youth Group.

The Session has decided that the church will pay for the clearances, which for most people will cost a total of \$40;

if anyone chooses not to be reimbursed, that will be greatly appreciated.

The Women's Assoc. has contributed \$500 towards this effort. The clearance application process is rather straight forward and can be done online.

A typed procedure has been prepared, and will be available at the back of the church by Sunday May 17, for those who

have computer access and are comfortable applying for their clearances.

Dates will be announced for application sessions to be held at the church for those without computer access or who would appreciate assistance.

Please feel free to call Tom Burkins (717-392-7253) if you have questions.

Singspiration



The 13th annual community hymn sing series, *Singspiration*, will begin on Sunday, May 3, at Old Leacock Presbyterian Church.

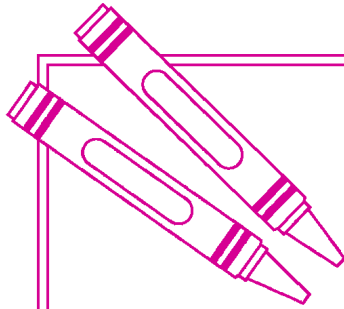
This year's summer hymn sing series celebrates the 275th Anniversary of Old Leacock Presbyterian Church. Beginning at 7 p.m., the hymn sings will be led by Tom Perella; accompaniment will be provided by Dianne Yuninger, who will play the church's 113-year-old Estes pump organ.

Lemonade will be served in the church courtyard after the hymn sings. The Old Leacock community hymn sings will continue on Sundays, June 7, July 5, August 2, and will conclude on Sunday, September 6.

Come and join in the singing of hymns as we sing HAPPY 275TH BIRTHDAY to Old Leacock Presbyterian Church.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, call the church at 687-6619 or go to www.leacockpres.org.





Just for KIDS

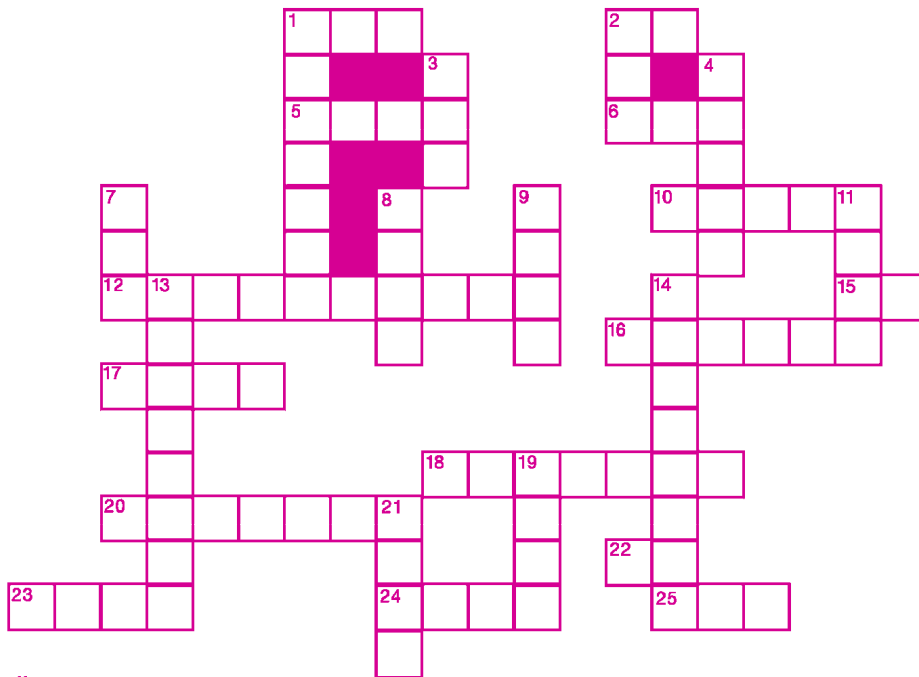
“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

Jesus’ disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Find the special prayer that Jesus taught them. Fit the words from the list into the squares on the puzzle.

Then, transfer them to the blank lines below.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-------|----------|------------|
| be | for | come | name | Father | hallowed |
| us | not | each | sins | against | temptation |
| we | our | Give | your | Forgive | |
| And | who | into | bread | Kingdom | |
| day | also | lead | daily | everyone | |



“ _____ ’ _____ 14 _____ 22 _____ 11 _____ 19 _____ ’ _____ 11 _____ 18 _____ 24 _____ .
 _____ 23 _____ 15 _____ 21 _____ 25 _____ 6 _____ 10 _____ 4 _____ . _____ 20 _____ 15 _____ 6 _____ 9 _____ ’
 _____ 3 _____ 2A _____ 5 _____ 20 _____ 13 _____ 2D _____ 9 _____ 1D _____ 15 _____ .
 _____ 1A _____ 17 _____ 15 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 12 _____ .” Luke 11:2-4

Stewardship Report - Financial Update March 2015

	Offering March		Expenses March	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$20,383	\$20,430	\$18,055	\$20,907
Year-to-Date	\$48,862	\$49,167	\$49,626	\$52,605

Budget Tracking Through March

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$49,626	\$52,605
% of Budget Spent	22%	23%

March was a five week month, so it looks much better than February (our bad weather month ☺). This March was very close to last year in offering, but we are doing better at controlling expenses, as you see from the year to year comparison. With one quarter of the year past us, we are at a \$764 deficit of spending versus offering income. This is much better than in recent years, but still is a deficit. I know this is in the weekly bulletin, but as a reminder, **we need to receive \$4,333 each week to make our budget.**

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 and the next will be in April. Through the end of March, we have received **\$2,258** in per capita payments (Thank You!!). 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: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.

Thank You Note

I received a thank you letter from AFC Controller Paul Schultz, Ambassadors For Christ, Paradise. The thank you was for the review I made of our church records for information on Rev. Charles Leaman, his daughters Mary Leaman (China Mary), Lucy Leaman, and Christiana Tsai.

This information was to be used in the making of a film by a Chinese movie company on

the life of Christiana Tsai to be released on August 15, 2014, the 30th anniversary of her death.

Thanks go to Michele McLaughlin, the church secretary, for asking me to respond to Paul Schultz (because my middle name is Leaman), and to Dr. Ivan B. Leaman of Strasburg for assisting me. Kudos to Dianne Yuninger for her guidance, and to many others who

helped with my research.

Special thanks are due also to the many church members who dazzled me with memories of 'China Mary' Leaman, her sister Lucy Leaman, their cousin Mary W. Leaman and of Christiana Tsai, who referred to the four of them as her Prayer Partners.

Love, Richard Leaman Smith -
Free Lance Writer

Thank You Note

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the wonderful people of this caring congregation. It is so helpful and comforting just to know that so many are praying for you. A special "thanks" for all the cards, visits, calls, and FOOD (I think my husband appreciated that the most because it was less cooking that he had to do!).

Also a BIG thank you to the members of the Mission Committee who kept the committee functioning during my absence. I'm not sure what I would have done without all of you, Art, Betty, Bonnie, and Joann.

The number of our membership may have diminished, but the caring concern and love of those still here surpasses any-

thing one can imagine.

It's so great to be part of such a group of people. Thank you so much.

God's Peace
Lois Eshleman



Gratitude Corner (Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care For Their Minister and His Wife)

By now everyone knows that Bob and I like our sweets, especially when it comes to peanut butter and chocolate. He and I are usually way too busy to pay much attention to the Easter Bunny, so that bunny tends to hop on by our house, too busy in return (I suppose) to leave us any baskets. But this doesn't matter, because every Easter there is someone who makes sure we get an Easter basket with fabulous goodies (and, yes, they do involve peanut butter and chocolate).

Thank you, **Ruth Anne Appel** for making sure we get our Easter baskets filled with your delicious candy every year. God bless you!

Emily Birch

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