

Leacock Communicator Leacock Presbyterian Church

www.leacockpres.org 687-6619

Volume 56, Number 1
February 2016

Notes From the Manse

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

A few months back, I wrote about how important Paul seems to think gratitude is, how often he urges people in his letters to be thankful. And I asked you to let me know things for which you were grateful. I used what you gave me in the Thanksgiving Eve service at the old church. Now you might think that should cover it, that really I shouldn't overdue this thanks thing. But I don't know. Look at what Paul said above—it's the will of God in Christ to give thanks in all circumstances. And it can be hard not to. The last two days I have watched Eric Hughes come over to the church with his snow blower to clear the walks and the doors in the front and back of the church. Today, I saw Ed Margerum using his snow blower to clear the sidewalk not only in front of the manse, but also in front of our neighbor's house. And I as I write this, George Shue and Dave Berkhimer are clearing the sidewalk in front of the church. So, forgive me if I start in thanking people again, but I'm in kind of a grateful mood.

I want to thank all the officers of the church for the committee work they did this year, for all the events, special and otherwise, they helped pull together, for sadly so many funeral lunches, for keeping the church's plant going strong. I especially want to thank those officers whose terms are up, Sharon Williams (though now she is becoming a deacon), Geri Lutz, Janet Cosby, Lori Smith, Forrest Boas (and Charlene Boas for filling his term), George and Karen Shue, and Sean Carney. I'm grateful too for our new secretary, Sandy Schoettle, and our new outdoor sexton, George Hall—they both have given themselves fully to their jobs and done wonderfully well. And thanks too to all who covered the work of the secretary and outdoor sexton while we searched for new ones.

And there have been special events this past year, though it may seem like they happened in another decade. We had a presbytery meeting here at Leacock and we celebrated our 275th anniversary. Neither of those events would have been possible without the hard work of many people. Remember the people the day before the presbytery meeting out in the parking lot chipping away ice and moving snow so we would have enough parking spaces? And then there were those who showed up early to direct the parking, to serve a breakfast, to keep things moving smoothly. Do you remember the 275th service with special music, pastors from several generations offering reflections, and an unbelievable luncheon afterwards?

Then there are what may seem like little things, but really aren't. I thank the people who greet people at the welcome center each Sunday and those who volunteer to bring refreshments for after the services. There's Paula Hughes who wrote and directed a delightful Christmas play for our youth. Last, but by no means least, are those things that have touched Emily and me personally. I thank you, the congregation, for your generous gift at Christmas time and all the individuals who gave us cookies and other sweets, fruit, kind notes and cards. And just the other day, Harold Yuninger showed up with a new trashcan to replace our old dilapidated one.

So, yes, I am grateful, in so many ways for so many things at this church. All the things you do over the course of a year add up. Those acts of service and kindness reveal the presence of the Spirit in this place. It makes me want to rejoice; it makes we want to say thank you.

Rev. Robert W. Birch



Lectionary for Sundays in February

Feb 7 Transfiguration of the Lord Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

Feb 10 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b -6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb 14 First Sunday in Lent Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

Feb 21 Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 4:1 Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

Feb 28 Third Sunday in Lent Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 I Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9





It is hard to believe that Lent is almost here. We have many opportunities at Leacock to focus on the spiritual aspects of this season, so please join your church family and enrich your experience and theirs.

We start the season on Ash

Worship in Lent

Wednesday, February 10, with a traditional service of meditation and the administering of ashes held in the sanctuary at 5:30pm. On the following five Tuesdays we will hold our Lenten Studies. A light meal of soup and bread will begin at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by a time of study and discussion led by Rev. Robert W. Birch. In his time, Jesus asked his followers many

questions; he answered some as well. We will explore some of the central questions Jesus asked and what they mean for our faith. And we will look at those questions he answered. Please feel free to join the group at whatever time, and for whichever weeks you are able. The dates are February 16, February 23, March I, March 8 and March 15.



Celebrate Communion on Sunday February 7

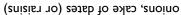
Psalm 16



Lectionary for Sundays in March

- Mar 8 Fourth Sunday in Lent Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- Mar 13 Fifth Sunday in Lent Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8
- Mar 20 Passion/Palm Sunday Sixth Sunday in Lent Liturgy of the Palms Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
- Mar 21 Monday of Holy Week Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11
- Mar 22 Tuesday of Holy Week Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 I Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
- Mar 23 Wednesday of Holy Week

- Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32
- Mar 24 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 I Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- Mar 25 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42
- Mar 26 Easter Vigil
 A minimum of three
 Old Testament
 readings should be
 chosen. The reading
 from Exodus 14 should
 always be used.
 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
 Genesis 22:1-18
- Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20 Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 Isaiah 55:1-11 Isaiah 12:2-6 Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 Psalm 19 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Psalm 42 and 43 Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 143 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 98 Romans 6:3-11 Psalm 114 Luke 24:1-12
- Mar 27 Resurrection of the Lord
 Easter Sunday
 Acts 10:34-43 or
 Isaiah 65:17-25
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 I Corinthians 15:19-26
 or
 Acts 10:34-43
 John 20:1-18 or
 Luke 24:1-12



Answer: iish, barley cake, grapes, cakes, loat of bread, cucumbers, lentils, cheese, olives, stew (or pottage), melons,







Puzzle answer on Page 3

FLOWERS

You may purchase the flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday, February 28 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Call the church office at 687-6619.

Mission Committee News

January 28th began another year of serving free community meals for anyone in the community who wishes to participate in a free hot nourishing meal with lots of fellowship. As in past years, the meals will take place on the last Thursday of the month, with the exception of November and December, from 5:30 to 6:30pm in our Smith Fellowship Hall. Sign up sheets will be in place in the Narthex two Sundays prior to the meal with sign up times when you can help or food items that may be donated. Everyone who has helped seems to agree that it is an excellent way to show Christ's love to others. If you have never helped, come and join us and have one of the most fulfilling and joyful experiences of church life.

Sunday, February 7th is our annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday. It is the one Sunday every year that you can feel free to dump all your change from your wallets, pockets, pocketbooks, car ashtrays, piggy banks, jars at home, and dump all that change at church. You are also invited to bring canned items as well. We will donate them to the Paradise food bank for those in the community who need it. The money collected will be going

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

to the Factory. And don't feel badly if you can't find any change. WE will gladly accept dollar bills and checks as well. (If using a check please make it out to Leacock Presbyterian Church and on the memo line write "Souper Bowl.")

On Sunday, February 14th, (also known as Valentine's Day!), our One Great Hour of Sharing offering begins. This offering is taken all six weeks of Lent to help those who are less fortunate than we are. There will be envelopes in the pews or feel free to use a plain white envelope and simply mark it "One Great Hour of Sharing" and put it in the offering plate. This offering will run until Sunday, March 27th (Easter Sunday).



Annual Meeting and One Worship Service

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 21, following a combined worship service at 9:30am. After receiving the reports from our officers and committees, we will enjoy a congregational meal in Fellowship Hall.



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is always interested in adding new faces and voices to the group. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Karen Homsher or Skip Brackbill, If you cannot serve on the committee but have ideas for what you would like to see included in Leacock worship, please contact us or put them in the "Thoughts and Ideas" box in the Narthex. We would love to hear from you.



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 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thurs, Feb 4	Intercourse Fire Company	2:00 - 7:00pm
Tues, Feb 16	Yoder's Country Market	2:00 - 7:00pm
Tues, Feb 23	Lampeter-Strasburg High School	8:00 - 2:00pm
Wed, Mar 2	Kinzer Fire Company	2:00 - 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.

Trustee Notes

February is the month for the Trustee's Special Fund Offering. The Trustees will be collecting money to replace the manse furnace and also for some ongoing repairs.

Trustees have already secured \$2,000 for the furnace and the majority of February's collection will go towards that project.
The quote for replacing the furnace is over \$5,000. The

repairman said he does not want to do any more than he has to on the furnace at this time due to the condition of the unit.

As always, if you see something that the Trustees need to look at, tell one of them. Thanks to everyone for your help

Dave Berkhimer

President

Trustees

Class of 2016
Donald Fieldsa
Robert Hershey
Michael Ruhl
Class of 2017
David Berkhimer, President
Craig Keenan
Danielle Short
Class of 2018
David Homsher
Eric Hughes
Scott Shenk

Women of Leacock
Bible Study - Come To The Waters
Waters of Justice and Righteousness
Our February study focuses on Amos 5:21-24.
All women are welcome to these small study groups.
Second Monday, February 8, 7:30am in Fellowship Hall
Second Thursday, February 11, 9:30am in the
home of Arlene Brackbill
Third Tuesday, February 16, 7:00pm in the church library
Any questions may be directed to Marie Brackbill or Arlene
Brackbill.



The Leacock UPC Personnel Committee

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to assist the Session as they enable the pastor and staff of the church to meet their full potential as they serve the church and further our mission.

It consists of the five session committee chairpersons, the Trustee President, the Deacon Moderator, the Clerk of Session, and the Pastor. It is responsible for the completion of annual performance reviews and all personnel-related issues.

The members of the 2016 Com-

mittee are:
Robert Birch, Pastor
Marie Brackbill, Stewardship
Karen Homsher, Worship
Jenny Keenan (chair), Church
and Community Life
Lois Eshleman, Mission

Tom Burkins, Christian Ed Dianne Yuninger, Clerk of Session

Dave Berkhimer, Trustees Charlene Boas, Deacons

Your comments, questions, or suggestions may be addressed to any of the members or placed in the "Thoughts and Ideas" Box for referral.



Church Officers

Session

Moderator Rev. Robert W. Birch Clerk Dianne M. Yuninger

Christian Education Tom Burkins, Chair

Milt Hostetter

Worship Karen Homsher, Chair

Christian Brackbill

Church & Community Life Jenny Keenan, Chair

Steve Boas Linda Erickson Mary Alice High

Mission Lois Eshleman, Chair

Bonnie Rice

Stewardship Marie Brackbill, Chair

Ed Johann

Deacons

Class of 2016
Kathy Ankney
Charlene Boas
Christy Fieldsa
June Stannard
Class of 2017
Maureen Carney
Tracey Dippner
Johanna Gingher
Barbara Hostetter
Class of 2018
Esta Fisher
Edwin Margerum
Jennifer McElhany
Sharon Williams



Being Mortal by Atul Gawande

The Leacock book and movie group is reading Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End. I will reiterate that this is a book that is an important read for every adult as author Atul Gawande explores how to bring meaning and purpose to the last phase of life.

We will order pizza and discuss the book on Friday February 12 at 5:00pm. Please join us for the discussion (and, no, you do not have to have read the book).

> **Emily Birch** Book and Movie Group Coordinator

Youth Group Calendar

The youth group schedule from now until Easter is as follows:

Sun, Jan 31	5:30pm	Dinner
	6:00 - 7:00pm	Communicants Class
Sun, Feb 7	7:00 - 8:30pm	Youth Group
Sun, Feb 14	5:30 - 6:00pm	Dinner
	6:00 - 7:00pm	Communicants Class
Sun, Feb 21	7:00 - 8:30pm	Youth Group
Sun, Feb 28	5:30 - 6:00pm	Dinner
	6:00 - 7:00pm	Communicants Class
Sun, Mar 6	7:00 - 8:30pm	Youth Group
Sun, Mar 13	5:30 - 6:00pm	Dinner
	6:00 - 7:00pm	Communicants Class
Sun, Mar 20	7:00 - 8:30pm	Youth Group
Sun, Mar 27	No Meeting - Eas	ster Sunday



Leacock Youth Group

The Leacock youth group had a fun December, kicking off with Family Advent Night and ending the fall "term" with a bonfire and gift exchange, complete with s'mores and a ghost story told by Reverend Birch. We invited youth group alumni to join us, and it was good to see friends we've missed. Thank you, thank you to Skip and Marie Brackbill for

sharing their "back yard" and helping us with the fire and cooking hot dogs.

We're busy planning events for the new year, while also continuing our discussions involving the choices we make. And we've moved beyond playing sardines every meeting, although it's still a favorite among some members. We're exploring possibilities for a retreat this summer, since the group missed that last summer.

As always, 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 messenger.



Stewardship Report - Financial Update November & December 2015

	Offering November		Expense	s November
	<u> 2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u> 2015</u>	<u> 2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$19,196	\$21,608	\$14,852	\$14,958
Year-to-Date	\$171,007	\$183,869	\$171,779	\$182,975

Budget Tracking Through November

	<u> 2015</u>	<u> 2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$171,779	\$182,975
% of Budget Spent	76.0%	81.0%

	Offering December		Expenses December	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u> 2015</u>	<u> 2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$27,036	\$23,705	\$26,009	\$23,688
Year-to-Date	\$198,043	\$207,574	\$197,788	\$206,663

Budget Tracking Through December

	<u> 2015</u>	<u> 2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$197,788	\$206,663
% of Budget Spent	88.0%	91.0%

Thank you Leacock Presbyterian Church! Exceptionally strong offering amounts in December from you, the members and friends of Leacock, have allowed us to completely cover our 2015 expenses with a small surplus of \$255.00. Whew! While not much, it is not a deficit, and for the last two years we have operated with no deficit. Although this is a good situation (when compared to other churches in our nation who are struggling to continue), I would be remiss if I didn't point out we have not met our anticipated budget amount for offering of \$225,312. While we gave \$34,281 (from offerings) to our Mission Committee to use for benevolence purposes, we had hoped to provide a full \$39,000 to help others in our community, nation and worldwide. Another figure I want to make you aware of, is the total offering in 2015 as compared to 2014. You will see from the reports above that we received \$207,574 in 2014 and \$198,043 in 2015. I know it is only January, but I want to challenge us to make 2016 different, and not make declining offerings a trend. Every little bit helps. Not just the amount of offering given on Sundays, but all the help and material donations given to our church that make a difference and helps control our expenses. Thank you all again!

The Stewardship Committee.



Thank You Notes Received

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during my recovery.

A real highlight was a visit from Carol and Rick (Shearer), Lois (Eshleman), Marie (Brackbill), and Bob and Margy (Hershey). I enjoyed their singing Christmas carols and cookies, yum!

Thanks to Bob (Birch) for a visit while I was in the hospital.

What a wonderful and caring family.

Sue Funk

Dear Church Family, Earl and I would like to thank you all for remembering us at Christmas time. We really enjoyed the visit and the beautiful poinsettia you gave us in honor of Earl's birthday.

It was so nice to visit with June Stannard, Jane Witmer and Ruth Bair on that day. Since we aren't able to attend church much anymore, we really enjoyed visiting and catching up with them all again. Also, thanks so much for the beautiful Christmas caroling and the cookies you all shared with us - Marie Brackbill, Carol and Rick Shearer, Lois Eshleman, and Bob and Margy Hershey (hopefully we remembered them all. If we forgot one please forgive us.)

Thanks also for remembering us during the year with cards. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring

church family.

May God Bless you all in the New Year.

Love and Prayers
Earl and Jacqueline Miller

Dear Leacock Church Friends,
As many of you know, I had
a knee replacement on
December 22. Thank you for
the thoughtful cards, phone
calls, texts, visits, taxi driving,
delicious meals and most of all
your prayers for a speedy
recovery. I am healing and
getting around very well, thanks
to you all. I am so lucky to have
such special, wonderful, caring
friends. Thanks again!

Love, Loretta McClarigan



Leacock Fellowship

Every Sunday, after the 10:30 service, a group of Leacock folks gathers for fellowship and lunch at the Olde Mill Restaurant at the Best Western in Intercourse. This isn't some special club. You don't need to pay a fee to get in.

All you need to do is to come along and join us and be willing to laugh and to get to know people with whom you worship on Sundays whom you might not know. Everyone is invited (even if you attend 8:00 service, you're welcome to come have lunch with us).

We do need to know how many to expect, so the restaurant staff can pull tables together for us, so after church, if you'd like to come along, please let either Margy Hershey or Mary Alice High know.

Hope to see you there!





What's New With the Adult Sunday School Class

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank Milt Hostetter for a very enlightening and engrossing three month's study covering the first 500 years of the Christian church.

Starting January 31st, David Homsher will be leading the discussion focusing on the book, *To Walk in Integrity*, written by Steve Doughty.

To quote one reviewer: "Doughty wisely recognizes there are no easy answers to

this challenge and gently walks with his reader, raising insightful questions to create openings for maturing in integrity. The book inspires compassion and justice for a broken world."

PERSONS		
Feb 7	Carl Plomchok	
Feb 14	Bonnie Rice	
Feb 21	Mary Ellen Rice	
Feb 28	Michael & Alba	
	Ruhl, Harrison &	
	Valerie	

PRAYER FAMILIES/

Happy Birthday to

Feb 6 Ethel Danner
Apartment 113
433 S. Kinzer Ave.
New Holland, PA 17557

Feb 28 Miriam Latshaw 1520 Harrisburg Pike Lancaster, PA 17601

Gratitude Corner

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

It's difficult to single anyone out for the gratitude corner right after the Christmas season. Every year, Bob and I are touched and moved by all those of you who send us cards, leave cookies and other goodies on our door step or in the office, who contribute to the end-of-year gift, and who show their love for us in other ways. I am going to single out someone (3 someones, actually), though, who have added to the joy of the Christmas season for us. As you know, we have a few young thespians in our midst at Leacock, one of whom performs in local theaters around Lancaster County. Last year, his parents arranged for us to see him in The American Musical Theater's Christmas Spectacular. This year, they arranged for us to see him in "A Christmas Story" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. Both events were great fun, and **Chad Hughes** made us proud. (It was fun at Dutch Apple when we were able to announce to our dinner table companions before the show that we were here, basically, to see the star of the show).

So, thank you, thank you to **Paula, Eric and Chad Hughes** for being such generous souls and sharing this part of your life with us. We really appreciate it!

Emily Birch

USHERS - FEBRUARY & MARCH

Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service
Ed Margerum, Head Usher
10:30 Service, (442-4027)

February

Donald Andrews Linda Erikson
Tracy Dippner Kelly Erikson

<u>March</u>

Art Myers Mary Alice High
David Homsher 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. 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!

NOTE: The 8:00 nursery will be staffed from an on-call list of those from the 8:00 congregation who are available to care for our kids. Please contact an usher if you desire care for your preschool age child/children. Thanks.

Feb 7	10:30	Carol & Dave Berkhimer
Feb 14	10:30	Alba & Mike Ruhl
Feb 21	9:30	Christy & Don Fieldsa
Feb 28	10:30	Margy & Bob Hershey
Mar 6	10:30	Kelly & Mike Hartmann
Mar 13	10:30	Sean Carney & Craig Keenan
Mar 20	10:30	Shirley & Lori Smith
Mar 27	10:30	Tom & Vicki Burkins

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - FEBRUARY & MARCH

Feb 7	10:30	Johanna Gingher & Margy Hershey
Feb 14	10:30	Jennifer McElhaney & Kathy Ankney
Feb 21	9:30	Jennifer McElhaney & Kathy Ankney
Feb 28	10:30	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty
Mar 6	10:30	Loretta McClarigan & Lea Lichty
Mar 13	10:30	Linda & Kelly Erikson
Mar 20	10:30	Emily Birch & Tom Burkins
Mar 27		Easter Sunday - No Sunday School

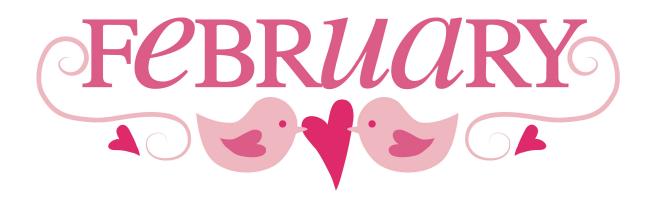
Remember to Mark Your Calendars for:

The Book and Movie Discussion Group: Friday February 12, 5:00 p.m. pizza and discussion of *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande



"I wasn't always as religious as I am now. For years I thought the Ten Commandments were a doo-wop group from the 1950's!"

Please see separate icon on the front page for the February Church Calendar Leacock Presbyterian Church 3181 Lincoln Hwy East Paradise, PA 17562 Phone 717 687-6619 Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit #95 I
Lancaster, PA



The March 2016 Newsletter Articles Are Due Sunday, February 21, 2016

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Editor - Vicki P. Burkins, 392-7253
vicki.burkins@gmail.com