



Leacock Communicator
Leacock Presbyterian Church
687-6619 www.leacockpres.org

Volume 56, Number 5

June 2016

Notes from the Manse

I feel good! Yes, I know that is a line from an old R&B song. But that's not what brought this feeling. No, I feel good because of the All-Congregation retreat that happened yesterday. It wasn't perfect. There were things that could have been better. For instance, it was pointed out that my handwriting isn't exactly the best. But think about it. Why was that noticed? Because I was racing to write down a long list of what is bread, what is good about Leacock. So, I can live with a not-so-good handwriting. Or take attendance. There were folks missing, and they were missed. But oh, my, how gratifying it was to see how many did come, how many brought wonderful food, how much laughter we shared. Why, the food was so good that some folks suggested that we gather the recipes and publish them. There were so many people who, as always, worked behind the scenes to pull off not only this retreat, but also the two that preceded it. There was Erin Cox-Holmes, our presbytery's executive presbyter, who led us so ably. There were those who stayed after to clean up and rearrange tables for this week's Community Meal. I could go on. But you get the point—I feel good.

Oh, the good of yesterday doesn't mean that we still don't face challenges. Of course we do—that goes with being human. But I was struck by part of the message of the video we watched. In it, the speaker suggested that because of our primeval roots we are hardwired in our brains to be anxious, to worry, to be negative. He observed that if ten things happen in a day, five good, four neutral, and one bad, we tend to remember the bad. But, he said, we can change this; we can change the very way our brains work. When good things happen, if we hold on to them, if we take the time to pause and reflect on what is good, the good, the positive will remain with us. And in time, slowly but surely, our brains will become more prone to being positive rather than negative. Even his diagrams reflected that. There were many red, negative dots in our brains' container, but the green, positive ones were bigger. And he suggested that if, when we hold onto the good, we link it to some of the bad, we will see the bad in a different way. We may be able to make it good. At the very least, it will have less of a hold on us.

In *1 Thessalonians*, Paul urges us to “hold fast to what is good.” Now, you might say that he is referring to good behavior, and you would probably be right. But just a few verses earlier, he says that we should rejoice always, that that is the will of God in Christ Jesus. So, I don't know. Maybe that guy in the video wasn't saying anything new. Maybe Paul said the same thing long ago, that we should hold onto the good, concentrate on it and not the bad, and we will be transformed. I read a book recently in which the author said that we should learn to be content with a simple truth—that we are incomplete, unfinished. And we should not judge, either ourselves or others, for everything is incomplete, everything and everyone is trying their best to grow in the midst of love and fear. So, let's not fix on what another person hasn't done or done in the way we like it. Let us not focus on what is lacking in a situation. Let us see the good and hold it, let it find a place in our hearts and minds. It just might do us and those around us some good. After all, *Proverbs* teaches that a cheerful heart is good medicine.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

LECTIONARIES FOR JUNE AND JULY

June 5 3rd Sun after Pentecost
10th Sun in Ordinary
Time
1 Kings 17:8-16 [17-24]
Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

June 12 4th Sun after Pentecost
11th Sun in Ordinary
Time
1 Kings 21:1-10 [11-14]
15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

June 19 5th Sun after Pentecost
12th Sun in Ordinary
Time
1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 26 6th Sun after Pentecost
13th Sun in Ordinary
Time
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

July 3 7th Sun after Pentecost
14th Sun in Ordinary
Time
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6: [1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 8th Sun after Pentecost
15th Sun in Ordinary
Time
Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 17 9th Sun after Pentecost
16th Sun in Ordinary
Time
Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 24 10th Sun after Pentecost
17th Sun in Ordinary
Time
Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

July 31 11th Sun after Pentecost
18th Sun in Ordinary
Time
Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21



HYMN SINGS

The Hymn Sings are off and running!

The remaining dates are:

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 4

All at Old Leacock at
7:00pm



NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Dear Church Friends,

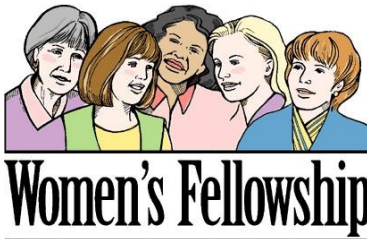
We thought you would like to know what we, the Presbyterian Women, decided to do with the monies raised from the Christmas Bazaar.

The decision included putting \$3,000 towards Leacock's Building Fund, to help in the daily maintenance of our church.

\$500 has been sent to each of the following organizations: Presbytery of Donegal's Hunger Fund, the Women's Shelter of Domestic Violence Services in Lancaster and The Food Pak Program that takes place at Ridgeview Mennonite Church.

We continue to use some monies to update our kitchen.

Thank you for your continued support of our Bazaar (which is only 186 days away. Mark your calendars for December 3).



FLOWERS FOR CHURCH



You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday June 5 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion. Call the church office at 687-6619.



PRAYER FAMILIES

- June 5 Shirley M. Smith
- June 12 Douglas & Lois Snader
- June 19 Betty Sowers
- June 26 Matthew Sowers



THOUGHTS AND IDEAS BOX

Several of you have already utilized the Thoughts and Ideas Box to make suggestions, ask questions, and bring various concerns to the church's attention. We hope that you will continue to use it as you come up with new ideas for improving situations or programs or for ways in which our church could grow in fellowship and ministry.

It is also a way to lift up what is good. You could also volunteer your services for some program or activity.

Signing your name is not required, but a direct response is impossible without it. Please be assured that only the Clerk of Session has the key and that notes are presented at each Session meeting where they are read and referred to the appropriate committees. The name of the writer is kept confidential.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

It has been decided to move the prayer chain into the 21st century! To do this you will be asked for your preference as to how you would like to receive the prayer chain requests.

There will be three methods of receiving the requests:

1. by telephone (as we do now) you will be responsible for calling the next person on the list
2. by email
3. by text

The email and the texting will be done by mass email and texts, and, therefore, will not require you to contact anyone else. Just use the extra time you would spend on the phone to pray!

Sometime in June there will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex to allow you to sign up for whichever way you would prefer to participate.

Please include either your phone number, email address, or your cell phone number, depending on your preference.

This is also an excellent time to decide to join the prayer chain and become a vibrant part of our church. There is POWER in prayer.

Any questions, please contact Lois Eshleman, 394-4953.



MISSION COMMITTEE

Our next community meal will be held on Thursday, May 26th in Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The blanket offering which we collected in January was \$455.00

The souper bowl offering netted \$235.37.

Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected during Lent was \$1,865.00.

Thank you to everyone for helping with these worthwhile offerings.

SESSION SNIPPETS

At their May stated meeting, the Session approved the following items:

- ◆ Accepted with regret the resignation of Ruling Elder Jenny Keenan who is pursuing a Master's Degree in Nursing Education.
- ◆ Approved Communion by intinction for the All Congregation Retreat May 22.
- ◆ Approved Youth Group Retreat for August 12-14 at Ruhl's cabin in Jim Thorpe, PA, with the pastor attending.
- ◆ Amended the Reimbursement Procedure to allow a second elder on a Session Committee the authority to sign reimbursement slips in the unavailability or incapacity of the committee chair.
- ◆ Approved hosting the February 28, 2017, Gathering of the Presbytery of Donegal.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES

June 5th starts off our summer season at Old Leacock, with a service each Sunday at 8:00 (no nursery).

It is also the date of our June Hymn Sing, which is at 7:00pm.

Communion will be celebrated twice this summer, on June 19 and August 7. It will be served by intinction, with an alternate station for those who prefer a single cup. As always, we will be glad to bring the elements to those who wish to remain seated in the pew. Alerting an usher will help assure that you are served.

If you would be willing to serve as an usher, even just as an on-call substitute, please speak to a Head Usher (Skip Brackbill at 8:00 or Ed Margerum at 10:30) or Karen Shue.

Don't miss the opportunity to pick a favorite hymn—just pick up a request slip at the back of the sanctuary and place it in the offering plate or give it to Bob or Dianne. They will be working them into our services as they fit the themes of our services.

The Worship and the Acts 16:5 Committees have been exploring the possibility of worshiping as one body for most of the year. Those who attended the retreat on May 22 had the opportunity to give personal responses concerning this idea. For those of you who were unable to attend, there is a copy of that response sheet in this newsletter. We encourage you to voice your thoughts and return it to the church office or to one of the committee members listed on the letter.

LEACOCK BOOK AND MOVIE GROUP

The Leacock book and movie group has sort of been on a hiatus for a while, as other things have been taking precedence. We had chosen to read the book *Graining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard but never set a date.

At this point, I'd like to check with everyone who has been attending the discussions to see if you're interested in continuing it.

If so, maybe we could set a specific schedule, say, every 2nd Friday, alternating movies and their discussion with books and their discussion. Ideas and thoughts are welcome.

Please let me know by June 15 (687-7734 or emilymb95@gmail.com), and we'll see where we are at that point. Thanks!

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



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 JUNE 2016

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Wednesday, June 1 | White Horse Fire Company | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Thursday, June 9 | Intercourse Fire Company | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Tuesday, June 14 | Yoder's Country Market | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Wednesday, June 22 | Kinzer Fire Company | 2:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Wednesday, June 29 | Gordonville 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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT - FINANCIAL UPDATE APRIL 2016

| | Offering April | | Expenses April | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| Monthly Total | \$14,077 | \$14,430 | \$12,743 | \$18,117 |
| Year-to-Date | \$56,011 | \$63,293 | \$55,414 | \$67,427 |

Budget Tracking Through April

| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Annual Budget | \$224,807 | \$225,312 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | \$55,414 | \$67,427 |
| % of Budget Spent | 25% | 30% |

Thinking about stewardship, good stewardship, always brings to mind one of the people of this congregation who served as a lay member of the Stewardship Committee for many years. When asked about ideas on promoting stewardship at Leacock, Gene Sowers immediately quoted scripture, chapter and verse: Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

What I took from that was the idea of generosity; generosity in everything time and talent and treasure. When I consider our budget numbers, our giving and spending record, the willingness of spirit to make community meals, Sunday School, Factory Meals, music, and many more activities happen at Leacock and beyond our walls through missional support efforts, I see a church involved in stewardship, in living generously.

May the spirit of generosity continue as we work together at Leacock living the message of Christ.

leacockpres.org
Our web address is www.leacockpres.org
You Can Find

| | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ <i>Leacock Communicator</i> ☺ Cancellations ☺ Usher and Nursery Schedule ☺ The Church Calendar ☺ Pictures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ The Church Staff ☺ Directions ☺ Times of the Services ☺ Church Officers ☺ Links to More Information |
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LEACOCK YOUTH GROUP

The youth group is now winding down its 2015/16 year.

We will end the year with a picnic and concert at Long's Park's first summer concert on June 5. We'll meet at the church at 5pm with "bag suppers" and hope to enjoy an evening of playing in the park, listening to great music, and enjoying each others' company. We welcome prayers for beautiful weather on this day.

We hope to schedule a few youth get-togethers this summer, but our big event will be another retreat at the Ruhl's cabin the weekend of August 12-14. All youth group members and former youth group members are welcome to join us for a weekend of fun and reflection just before the school year gets into full swing again.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas,
Youth Group Leaders



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Memorial Day

May 29

No Youth Group

Picnic (bag supper) and Concert

Long's Park

June 5 - Meet at Church - 5pm

Communicants Class 5:30 - 7:30pm

June 12

June 26 - last class

Youth Retreat - Jim Thorpe, PA

Fri Aug 12 - Sun Aug 14

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Imagine yourself sitting on a log amid a circle of friends. Your gaze follows the trail of sparks slowly drifting toward the dark sky. The smell of the campfire is heavy on the warm air. The storyteller has just finished her story by saying "It was Jesus all along. My best friend has always been Jesus." You all begin to sway slowly back and forth in unison as you sing "Amazing Grace."

What a beautiful end to a day filled with laughter, games, songs and prayer. You can hardly wait to turn your flashlight on and walk back to the cabin with your friends, talking all the while about everything you have done, everyone you've met, and your plans for the rest of the week at Camp Donegal.

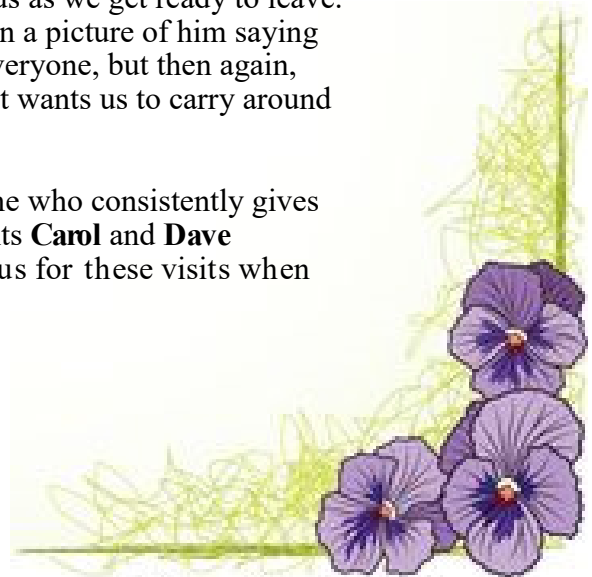
To find out how you can make this experience your own, pick up a Camp Donegal Summer 2016 brochure from the back of the sanctuary or visit www.CampDonegal.org.

Scholarships are available to cover one half of your fee.

GRATITUDE CORNER (THOSE WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO CARE FOR THEIR MINISTER AND HIS WIFE)

Recently, Bob and I were busy making some communion rounds for at-home members, and we scheduled a visit that's always special for us. We have a member of this congregation who, no matter what kind of day you're having, can always make you feel the presence of God and put a smile on your face. He's warm, effusive, genuine, seriously knows how to love, and also loves to laugh. There are few things in life that make us feel much better than the greeting we get from him when we walk in the door and the sincere thanks and love he gives us as we get ready to leave. I'm kicking myself because I should have taken a picture of him saying goodbye to Bob after that visit to share with everyone, but then again, maybe there are some moments in life God just wants us to carry around in our hearts, rather than in pictures.

Thank you, **Billy Berkhimer**, for being someone who consistently gives us such moments. (Thanks also go to his parents **Carol** and **Dave Berkhimer**, who are sometimes able to join us for these visits when we call to schedule them.)



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!

USHERS

**Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service**

**Ed Margerum, Head Usher
10:30 Service**

JUNE

Scott Shenk
Donald Andrews

Bob Hershey
Margy Hershey

JULY

Ruth Usner
Harold Yuninger

Kathy Ankney
Chuck Ankney

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!

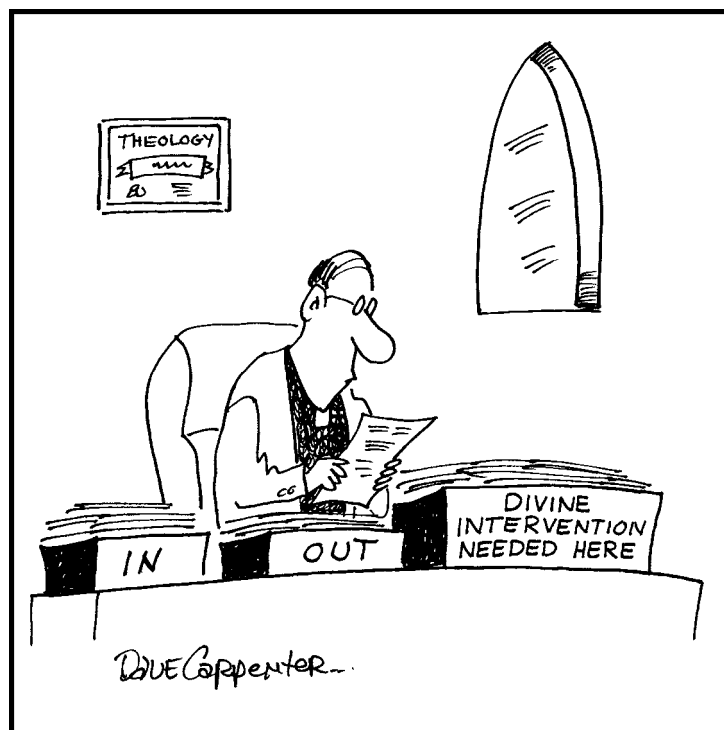
NURSERY

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.

| | | |
|---------|-------|---------------------------------|
| June 5 | 10:30 | Lois & Darwin Eshleman |
| June 12 | 10:30 | Karen Homsher & Marie Brackbill |
| June 19 | 10:30 | George & Karen Shue |
| June 26 | 10:30 | Don & Christy Fieldsa |
| July 3 | 10:30 | Dave & Carol Berkhimer |
| July 10 | 10:30 | Scott & Cathy Shenk |
| July 17 | 10:30 | Darwin & Lois Eshleman |
| July 24 | 10:30 | Mike & Kelly Hartmann |
| July 31 | 10:30 | Karen Homsher & Emily Birch |

If you are unable to serve as a volunteer, PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE SCHEDULED ON ANOTHER SUNDAY and call the office secretary, 687-6619, so she can make the bulletin change. THANK YOU!

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



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Articles for the July/August
Newsletter will be due Sunday,
June 19

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