



# Leacock Communicator

## Leacock Presbyterian Church

687-6619

Volume 58, Number 6

[www.leacockpres.org](http://www.leacockpres.org)

July/August 2017

### *Notes from the Manse*

I love a good story. Always have. It's summertime, and articles are being written about the best books for the beach or more generally vacation. When I was a kid, I did make use of my summer break to dig into books I might not have had time to read during the school year. Do any of you remember Kenneth Roberts? He wrote historical fiction about colonial days, much of it centered in Maine, which may explain the origins of my love for that state. His books could be long—*Northwest Passage* I remember as quite a thick book. But it so captured me that I finished it in a matter of days.

A cursory glance at Scripture might lead one to believe that stories are not to be recommended. *Proverbs* has several passages warning against "talebearers." And *2 Peter* insists that the gospel was not the product of some slick, fabricated stories. But you have to be a little careful here. The word for "stories" in Greek is *mythoi*, and myths often were and still are considered make-believe, something inherently false, untrue. The gospel most certainly told a story, the story of Jesus of Nazareth. But for the disciples this story was true in the deepest sense of the word.

Well, what about Jesus? What was his take on stories? If you look at the Sermon on the Mount, it is clear he taught in several different ways. He offered something similar to the law of Moses in the Beatitudes, a list of ways to be. He spoke in metaphor, comparing the disciples to salt or a lamp. To drive a point home, he used hyperbole, insisting that one tear out one's eye if it causes one to sin. At least I hope that was hyperbole—if we start discarding body parts that contribute to sin we will be pretty well banged up. Jesus taught by example, by his deeds, the way he lived. He engaged in logical exchanges with lawyers and Pharisees. And, yes, he told stories, stories we call parables. Now, the gospels give a variety of reasons for why he taught in parables. At one point he tells the disciples it is so that those resistant to the good news won't understand, while the disciples will—yet, he immediately has to spell out the parable's meaning. At another place, it is said parables reveal hidden mysteries. And that, I suspect, is closer to the truth. Parables, like all good stories, make us think, probe beneath the surface. They also stick with us. Study after study has shown that students and people in general will struggle to remember a lecture of listed ideas, but they will long remember a well-told story. Consider the parable of the Good Samaritan—even non-Christians know the tale.

This is the thing—we all have stories. We all are stories. Why do we like to hear others' stories? Well, sometimes maybe to get a little juicy dirt. But most of all, I believe that it is in learning the stories of others that we better understand our own. So, here's another invitation. What is your story? What were the important chapters in your life? If you feel you can, share them with me; many of you already do. There is the woman—you know who you are—whose life of late has been hard. And yet in the telling of the tale, there is humor, lessons learned, life. Therefore, if you will, let me know some of your stories. Then, perhaps, with your permission I can share them with others, anonymously if necessary. It is in our tale telling that we grow and learn. Jesus knew that.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

## LECTIONARIES TEXTS

JULY	AUGUST
<p><b>July 2</b> Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8) Genesis 22:1–14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12–23 Matthew 10:40–42</p>	<p><b>August 6</b> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13) Genesis 32:22–31 Psalm 17:1–7, 15 Romans 9:1–5 Matthew 14:13–21</p>
<p><b>July 9</b> Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9) Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67 Psalm 45:10–17 or Song of Solomon 2:8–13 Romans 7:15–25a Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30</p>	<p><b>August 13</b> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14) Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b Romans 10:5–15 Matthew 14:22–33</p>
<p><b>July 16</b> Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10) Genesis 25:19–34 Psalm 119:105–112 Romans 8:1–11 Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23</p>	<p><b>August 20</b> Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15) Genesis 45:1–15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32 Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28</p>
<p><b>July 23</b> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11) Genesis 28:10–19a Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 Romans 8:12–25 Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43</p>	<p><b>August 27</b> Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16) Exodus 1:8—2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1–8 Matthew 16:13–20</p>
<p><b>July 30</b> Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12) Genesis 29:15–28 Psalm 105:1–11, 45b or Psalm 128 Romans 8:26–39 Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52</p>	



## *Using Online Banking for Tithes and Offerings*

Regardless of the bank you use, if you do utilize online banking, most all today offer bill payment as part of the online banking services. This is slightly different from setting up automatic payments for your mortgage, car loan or electric bill.

The major difference is the online bill pay payments are not necessarily an electronic transfer. You can pay virtually any company or organization using online bill pay, as the bank will cut a check for you and send it to the institution you specify. Accessing online bill pay is through your bank's normal online banking site, so if you do use online banking, bill payment should also be available. If you do not see it on the site menus, you may have to call your institution and request it to be "turned on", but in many cases it is a part of online banking already.

Once you access the online bill payment, it is a simple matter to add a party to pay. It will ask for name and address, and account numbers (which is not necessary if you are using it for Leacock). After setting up the organization you wish to pay, you simply enter an amount and date you want it to be paid. What makes this really convenient is that you can set up a recurring payment.

Personally, I set it up for a weekly check to be sent to Leacock. You could also set it up for bi-weekly or monthly. I can manage this all easily online and do not have to remember to write a check and bring it to Church with me on Sundays. Also, on those weeks when I am away or cannot attend Church, I don't have to worry about my offering; it is sent regardless. Having regular payments sent to Church is a blessed thing for the Church as well. Our Church needs regular cash flow to help in keeping up with our bill payments and operational needs.

In addition, our giving to Benevolence is based on a percentage of offerings! This benefits not only the person making the payments (because of the ease of it) but also our Church in better cash flow. Missing offerings has always been a struggle especially over the summer months when many families have activities and vacations. Consistent offerings spread over the year would help our Church meet its financial obligations with a lot less pain and worry for the Stewardship committee and Trustees. The only downside I see is not having an offering to drop in the plate when I do attend Church. I have come to grips with this. I know that I am still giving an offering, and the benefit of having it happen automatically is well worth not dropping it in the plate when I am at Church. Please, if you do use online banking, consider setting up an automatic payment for your offerings.

The Stewardship Committee

***Please Note*** : *On August 12 there will be a Stewardship Retreat to examine how we do budgets & finances here at Leacock. All are invited to attend.*



## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### July Prayer Families

July 2

Linda, Kelly & David Erikson

July 9

Christine Eshleman

July 16

Darwin & Lois Eshleman

July 23

Donald, Christy, Logan  
& Juliana Fieldsa

July 30

Louis & Esta Fisher

### August Prayer Families

August 6

Michael Funk

August 13

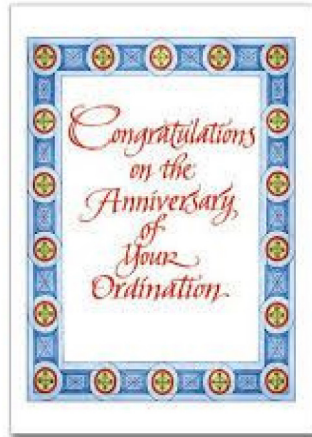
Ronald & Susan Funk

August 20

Stephen Funk

August 27

Robert & Johanna Gingher



### Ordination Anniversary

With grateful hearts, we congratulate Rev. Robert W. Birch as he celebrates ten years of ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. At their June gathering, the Presbytery of Donegal presented certificates to those celebrating ordination anniversaries. Making the day even more special was the presence of his uncle David Birch who was recognized as having been ordained for sixty-five years.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

### Flowers for the Church

You may purchase flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday, July 16 in honor of or in memory of someone or a special occasion.

Please call the church office at 687-6619



The popular Hymn Sing Series continues on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

July 2

August 5

September 3

## Mission Committee

The next free community meal will be held on **Thursday, July 27th** in the Smith Fellowship Hall of our church. Everyone is welcome to come and help or just to eat and fellowship with our community. In August the meal will be held on **Thursday, August 31st**. Please mark your calendar now as there will not be a separate newsletter in August.

It has been decided that the offerings from the hymnsings will be split into two donations. May, June, and July will comprise the first donation, and August and September will comprise the second donation.

The first donation will go to the Milagro House in Lancaster. The Milagro House is committed to providing education, housing, and counseling for women and children experiencing homelessness. The women come to Milagro House for many reasons: some recovering from addiction and some suffering from mental illness. Most have been abused. Some suffer low self esteem, insufficient education, inadequate parenting skills, or poor self discipline. All are mothers and all of them are homeless.

The second donation will go to the Youth Advocate Programs. YAP was founded in Pennsylvania in 1975 to help reintegrate youth returning from adult prison in Camp Hill. Since then, it has grown to 24 counties in PA to work with approximately 3000 youth and families. They work in child welfare, juvenile justice, education, intellectual and developmental disabilities systems.

Please keep in mind that the next clothing drive will be held during the month of September. Please bring your gently used, clean clothing to the church only during that month. We do not have space to store clothing that is brought after the deadline and the donated clothes have been taken to the Lancaster County Council of Churches. Clothing may be dropped off at the church from September 1st through September 24th.

## Worship Committee

As mentioned in the June newsletter, July and August will be the trial period for our “on-call” nursery supervision. We will make every effort to ask people in turn so no one is required to do it repeatedly. Please contact Skip Brackbill or Karen Homsher if you have questions or concerns.

Our next celebration of Communion is on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and it will be served by intinction. We are now providing a gluten free station for those who need or prefer it. Simply notify an usher or one of those serving.

Attendance is growing at the Hymn Sings! The remaining dates are July 2, August 6, and September 3. Invite your friends and neighbors.

## CCL Committee

### Summer Fun

On Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m., come join the fun at Waters Edge Mini Golf, 230 N. Ronks Rd., Bird in Hand, PA. This is our annual Golf Outing for the Leacock golfers-family fun. All ages play a round of mini golf and usually end the evening with an ice cream treat.

Be sure to sign up on the sign up sheet that will be in the narthex. Bring your grandkids, friend and neighbors to enjoy the evening. The cost is only \$6.50 if we get at least 20 people. Last year we had almost 30 for a great evening of fun. See you there!

Don't forget to support our softball team Monday evenings at Paradise Park. The schedule is below and on the bulletin board in the narthex.. Go Leacock!

\*\*\*\*\*



July 3	No Games		
July 10	7:30 p.m.	Field 1	Leacock v. Pequea Baptist
July 17	6:30 p.m.	Field 1	Leacock v. Bellevue
July 24	7:30 p.m.	Field 2	Leacock v. Calvary Monument
July 31	8:45 p.m.	Field 2	Leacock v. Little Britain

*Playoffs & Finals in August TBD!*

## Leacock Youth Group

The Leacock youth group is busy trying to schedule a few fun trips this summer. We have our eyes set on tubing, which, if the weather cooperates, we will be doing Sunday July 2. We are also planning a trip to Longwood Gardens. In the fall, we will begin meeting the first and third Sundays of the month from 7:00-8:30. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas, Youth Group Leaders

## Leacock Book and Movie Group

The Leacock book and movie group enjoyed reading and watching *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. We all agreed the movie couldn't possibly capture the magic of the book, which has such well-drawn characters and immerses the reader into the heart of Brooklyn a century ago. The movie did a good job of capturing the essence of the book, though, and I highly recommend it.

We will be taking a break over the summer and will gather again in September to discuss the book *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. I have yet to read it, but I also have yet to find someone who's read it who hasn't loved it. That should be incentive, I hope, for everyone to take it on vacation with them this summer and then join us for a pot luck supper the third Friday in September to discuss it.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

### BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE JULY & AUGUST 2017

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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>
Wednesday July 5	Lancaster Co Government Building - 9:00am
Wednesday, July 19	Gordonville Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, July 20	Yoder's Market New Holland - 2:00pm
Wednesday, July 26	Lancaster General Hospital - 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 2	White Horse Fire Company - 2:00pm
Wednesday, August 9	County Line Medical Center - 2:00pm
Tuesday, August 15	Yoder's Market - 2:00pm
Thursday, August 17	Lancaster General Hospital - 2:00pm
Wednesday, August 23	Kinzer Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, August 31	Intercourse Fire Company - 2:00pm

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavillion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours on Monday are 10am - 7:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8 am to 4 pm, Wednesday and Friday 800 am to 6 pm. For more information call 544-0170.





***Gratitude Corner (Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Care for Their Minister and his Wife)***

The members of this church never cease to amaze me with their generosity. I'm always touched to see how many people pitch in to provide cards, support, and food to those who are sick or suffering a loss. Recently, though, I was completely surprised when a certain couple stopped by our place with some lasagna and other goodies for Sandy, shortly after her surgery, and decided to throw some in for Bob and me as well. How sweet that was!

So, thank you , thank you, **Don and Bea Andrews** for your kind, generous hearts. We certainly appreciated that surprise!

Emily Birch



My heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you for your wonderful support! The prayers, cards, meals, cookies and your caring have meant so very much to me, and I am so very grateful. The beautiful prayer shawl is a reminder of all that is good and loving in this world, and I am surrounded by it!

Sandy Schoettle



## Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

### July

2 and 9      8:00 Art Meyers and Ruth Usner  
                 9:30 David and Linda Erikson

16, 23

and 30      8:00 Tom and Vicki Burkins  
                 9:30 Chuck and Kathy Ankney

### August

6 and 13      8:00 Don Andrews and Harold Yuninger  
                 9:30 Jennifer McElhany and Craig Keenan

20 and 27      8:00 Don Andrews and Tracey Wettig  
                 9:30 Margy Hershey and Mary Alice High

### September

3              8:00 Karen and David Homsher  
                 9:30 Shirley and Lori Smith

10             9:30 Shirley and Lori Smith

17 and 24      10:30 George and Karen Shue

## Nursery

July and August - "On Call"

Leacock Presbyterian Church  
3181 Lincoln Hwy. East  
Paradise, PA 17562

Phone 717 687-6619

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #951  
Lancaster, PA



# July August

Articles for the September Newsletter  
Are due by Friday, August 25

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR  
Sandy Schoettle, Editor