



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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Notes from the Manse

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." Romans 1:8

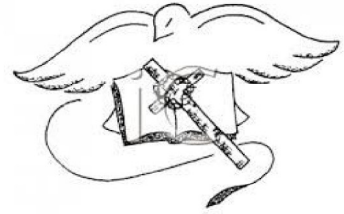
These are Paul's words, but in many ways they speak for me. You may have some doubts as to whether in fact your faith is proclaimed all over the world. Maybe there are folks in small villages here and there who haven't heard of you and your faith. But trust me—I have spoken of you, of this congregation, to people in many places, far and near. Paul begins most of his letters to churches with gratitude for their people, people he met in homes, often at risk to their lives. Well, this is kind of a monthly letter to you; let me too begin with gratitude. A few weeks back, on Old Leacock Day, I was totally surprised by your acknowledging my ten years at Leacock. I thank you so much for the gifts, for the cards given that day and sent later. Most of all, I thank you for your kind words, both during the service and later.

I can't believe it has been ten years. In some ways, it feels much longer; in other ways, it seems to have gone in the blink of an eye. Like all of life, there have been sorrows and joys, for me, for you individually, for us, the body of Christ. It seemed those first years were filled with funerals, times of tears but also celebration of lives of grace and often remarkable strength. There have been weddings too and reaffirmations of marital vows, and they blessed me by allowing me to witness couples beginning journeys together in wonder, hope, and innocence, couples with many miles already traveled and their love wiser, stronger. Funerals, weddings—they are worship services, and I have valued so much our worship together in all of its forms, from Easter Dawn services in the cold where we have been joined by Amish girls to the warm glow of candlelight on Christmas Eve. Often, I must admit, most memorable have been Children's Sermons—humbling experiences, believe me, as the kids lead me in places I never imagined.

There has been another kind of worship, perhaps the most important according to our Lord, and that has been the serving we have done for others. When I came, a group went into Lancaster once a month to offer a meal to people in need. Now, we offer a meal in our own church, to all who seek to break bread with their neighbors. And we do so much more, from Factory Meals to the mountain of bags of clothes currently gathering in the church. We worship, too, in fellowship with each other. I cherish our youth retreats, with bears and s'mores. Miniature Golf in sweltering heat, throwing out the first pitch at a Barnstormer's game, being welcomed into your homes—I have delighted in it all.

I have done work in the Presbytery and in various community organizations; I have been a chaplain at Camp Donegal. All of that work has been good. But what has touched my heart the most has been you, this congregation. There are so many of you to thank, those who have worked beside me, those who have helped me. I hope I have grown. If I have, it will be due to the patience and guidance of the Holy Spirit—and you. So, sure, there have been some tough times, but in the end I am left with joy. And, like Paul, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you.

Rev. Robert W. Birch



Lectionary Texts

October 1

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 21)
Exodus 17:1–7
Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16
Philippians 2:1–13
Matthew 21:23–32

October 8

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 22)
Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b–14
Matthew 21:33–46

October 15

Nineteenth Sunday after
Pentecost
(Proper 23)
Exodus 32:1–14
Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23
Philippians 4:1–9
Matthew 22:1–14

October 22

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 24)
Exodus 33:12–23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1–10
Matthew 22:15–22

October 29

Twenty first Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 25)
Deuteronomy 34:1–12
Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17
1 Thessalonians 2:1–8
Matthew 22:34–46

Worship Committee

We are a resurrection people. In our faith, we believe that life, true life, does not begin, nor does it end in our time upon this earth. Yet, that time does come to an end. And when death comes, it can be very hard for those left behind, those whose hearts ache in missing us. Therefore, we invite you to consider what kind of funeral or memorial service you might like.

The Worship Committee has prepared a document in which you can outline your preferences and wishes for such a service. These will be available in the November newsletter, on the Leacock website, in the back of the sanctuary, and from the church office.

There is, of course, no requirement that you fill this form out. But if you do, it might help your loved ones in those hard days following such a loss. Please know that you can change what you write at any time—just let the office know, or send a note to the pastor. We hope this can be an instrument of grace for our members and their families.

Session Snippets

In September the Session met on a muggy evening, enjoying the relative coolness of Fellowship Hall as they conducted the business of this church.

Actions included the following:

- Approving setting up online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation using the church website, if the way be clear.
- Naming church treasurer Marsha Horst and trustee treasurer Carol Shearer as online giving administrators.
- Scheduling a church hike October 22 at 1:00 p.m.
- Granting a written release to William McFadden to video the interior and exterior of Old Leacock.

Pump Organ Update

The Estey Pump Organ at Old Leacock is back after spending the summer being repaired and tuned by Brunner Organ Company. The men working on the instrument remain impressed by its tone and range. With the blowers having been rebuilt, pumping should be much easier.

Inside the mechanism they found the plaque stating the organ was **built in 1903**, making it 114 years old — a true antique. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Jewelry Making Class

Saturday,
October 14
1:00 p.m.



Taught by Gretchen Shea, Bob and Margy Hershey's daughter, we will be making necklaces which were very popular at our previous class. Bring your ideas for color, style and length. The cost of the class is \$20.00 which covers the cost of supplies. Class size is limited to 20 people so be sure to sign up on the clipboard in the narthex to reserve your place. Reservations must be made 3-4 days in advance.

Leacock Youth Group

The Leacock youth group kicked off the year on September 17. We will be meeting every first and third Sundays this year from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and hope all those in grades 7-12 will join us and bring friends. In October we plan to spend one meeting watching a movie.

Emily Birch and Charlene Boas,
Youth Group Leaders

TRUSTEES NOTES

October is
Trustee Workday Month



The workday date is **Saturday, October 21** so mark your calendar!

There will be jobs for everyone who shows up, and the jobs will be matched to your work skill level, not above. We are looking at painting, raking, trimming and cleaning. Bring your tools and a happy attitude!

There will be coffee, pastries and cider. It is a great time for fellowship and catching up with your neighbors. Time will run from 8:00 AM to about Noon.

See you there! Thanks to everyone for your help throughout the year.

David Berkhimer
Trustee President



Leacock Book and Movie Group

On September 15, the Leacock Book and Movie Group gathered to discuss the book *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. We enjoyed a delicious pot luck supper and a good conversation about WWII, love, technology, resistance, preservation, and more.

On October 13, we will gather again to watch the movie ***The Monuments Men***, which also takes place during WWII and is also about strength and preservation. Please bring a covered dish and join us at 5:30.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator



October Prayer Families

October 1
Michael, Kelly, Owen & Nora Hartmann

October 8
Austin, Kristn & Finley Hayes

October 15
Bob & Margy Hershey

October 22
Geraldine Hess

October 29
Gwen Hess

A Special Thank You from Patty Shenk Pequea Valley School Nurse

Dear Leacock,

Yes, we are so very thankful for the extra supplies to help students. Thanks for your generosity! You have been such a blessing to support our Nurse's Office. I have given out deodorant to some young learners already. I am thinking I will touch base with you after the Holiday Break to see if we could use anything else for this school year. Thanks so very much!



***** Geocaching Hike *****

Linda Erickson will lead a Geocaching Hike on Sunday, October 22 at 1:00 p.m.

We will be meeting in the church parking lot. Come enjoy a fall hike and try your skills at geocaching!

The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.



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

Well, we don't know how a church this size managed to pull off such a big surprise, but surprised your minister was when he suddenly found himself being feted during the Old Leacock Sunday service. We are both so touched by your thanks and gifts. The long list of sweet things you all appreciate and the beautiful prayer could not have been more perfect. The books were all right up his alley; the gift card will be enjoyed by both of us; and we appreciated all the individual cards as well.

So, thank you for that, but also thank you for being such a kind and generous congregation during the past ten years. Thank you for sharing your hearts and souls and for letting us serve you. It has truly been a humbling and rewarding experience for both of us, and we've grown so much in faith and love. Love does, indeed, grow here (a special thanks to Dianne Yuninger for remembering that anthem, which tipped me off, but went right over Bob's head — every so often, he can be a little bit clueless, which is good when you're trying to surprise him) at this wonderful little church in Paradise.

Emily Birch

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE OCTOBER 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 & Time</u>
Thursday, October 12	Gordonville Fire Company - 2:00pm
Wednesday, October 18	Kinzer Fire Company - 2:00pm
Thursday, October 19	Lancaster General Hospital - 2:00pm
Thursday, October 26	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 717- 544-0170.



Stewardship at Leacock

*Caring for people, the collection of people that we are at Leacock

*Feels like family, and I belong, it's about belonging

*I feel at home and complete in this place

*These people are family, everyone is a joy, I feel content

*Love for the people and to extend gratitude to God for this gift of love

*I want Leacock, this church community, to be able to stay here

*Giving is simply what God expects me to do, our tithe has always been the first portion to come out of our paychecks

The above comments are answers to two questions I posed in September to five people at Leacock. Why do you come? Why do you give?

Contentment, family, joy, love, belonging, a desire for a future Leacock community, a continuum of this historical faith community. It can be difficult in this age of speed and technology to find such a place of welcome. I feel privileged to receive others' stories, to share in their joy, but to hear their concern too.

Please continue to prayerfully consider your giving to Leacock. Your gift supports your fellow worshippers and the presence of this missional church within the community of Paradise and the Donegal Presbytery.

Reminder: Financial numbers are available on the chart in the back hallway and will be in the narthex again when the end of September figures are reported.

With respect from the Stewardship committee, Marie Brackbill

Mission Committee

The next free community meal will be held in the Smith Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6:30 on Thursday, October 26th. Everyone from the Gap, Intercoarse, and Paradise areas are invited. We have been averaging about 75-80 community members plus 18+ members of our church to help prepare and serve this meal. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship in working together to show God's love.



The 37th annual CROP walk will be held on Sunday, October 15th, with registration starting at 1:00 PM. As usual we will have a 3 mile and 5 mile walk available depending on how energetic you feel! Pledge sheets will be in the narthex. Please remember that 25% of all the money that is collected will stay here in the Paradise area for the Paradise area food bank. If you don't know who to sponsor, you may still contribute any time from now through October 15th by writing a check make it out to CROP-CWS and give it to Alba Ruhl or Lois Eshleman.

For all the slower walkers in our congregation, this year we will have a "mini walk". It's more of a social walkers group. We will walk together, talk together, laugh together, and maybe even sing together! And we will take time to remember just how lucky we are to be able to do this. Even our mini walk can make a difference.

Surprise in Heaven

I dreamed death came, the other night,
And Heaven's gate swung wide;
An angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside.

And there! To my astonishment,
Stood folks I'd judged and labeled,
As, "quite unfit"; "of little worth";
And, "spiritually disabled!"

Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise--
Not one expected Me!!!

Anon

Ushers

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

October

November

10/1	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer	11/5	9:30	Chuck Ankney and Art Myers
10/8	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer	11/12	9:30	Chuck Ankney and Art Myers
10/15	9:30	Dave & Carol Berkhimer	11/19	9:30	Mike and Alba Ruhl
10/22	9:30	Steve & Charlene Boas	11/26	9:30	Mike and Alba Ruhl
10/29	9:30	Steve & Charlene Boas			



Nursery

October "On Call"

Sunday School Teacher & Helper

October

November

10/1	Lois & Darwin Eshleman	11/5	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter
10/8	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey	11/12	Vicki & Tom Burkins
10/15	Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey	11/19	Carol Shearer & Marie Brackbill
10/22	Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter	11/26	No Sunday School
10/29	Vicki & Tom Burkins		

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Articles for the November Newsletter
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THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor