



Leacock Communicator

Leacock Presbyterian Church

717-687-6619

www.leacockpres.org

Volume 59, Number 7

September 2018

Notes from the Manse

“This book...shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night.” *Josh 1:8*

I just finished a book, a remarkably good book, one of those that I know will linger long with me, whose characters and stories seem so real that it is almost as if they have lived with me, I with them. It was a big book; it took me a while to get through it, but not because it was obscure or tedious. Reading it most certainly was not work. I just wanted to go slow within it, linger over sentences or moments that arrested me like an unexpected waterfall around a bend on a trail. Now, having read this book, I feel somehow enlarged, like I've lived more and deeply.

All this got me thinking about books, reading. Sometimes it feels like we are living in an age in which such things are becoming ever more rare. The world seems so noisy, lives lived at faster and faster speeds. Take the news. Some get it from television, with complex stories sized down to fit the medium, often on networks that are really about reinforcing what people already believe and expect. For others, even TV is too slow, when there is the internet with access to news now almost as it happens. Newspapers? How quaint. The idea of sitting, reading an article written by someone trying to capture context, the breadth of an event, may seem stifling when really all one wants to do is get to a reaction. And books? Oh, they're even more of a drag. They just take too long, are too far removed from life lived.

But that's wrong, at least for me. Reading any kind of book is a good that I fear is being slowly lost. That would shock the writers of the Bible. To them, the book was the thing. Why, early Muslims referred to Jews and Christians as People of the Book. The importance of the Book and the books within it was varied. It recorded God's will; it told the story of a people and later the Word made flesh. But I suspect there may have been other reasons. *Psalm 46* begins, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Reading slows us down, brings a kind of stillness, a slower way of learning, knowing. The truth of a good novel like the one I just read is not found in a line or a single strand of narrative. Rather, like a life itself, the whole is needed for understanding and often there is a need to go back, see old things in a new light. And in reading we not only discover the characters and their stories—we gain a deeper knowledge of ourselves. So it is with Scripture. Oh, people are fond of pushing an agenda by citing a verse here or there. But it is in holding all the books in the book together that we begin to glimpse the message. Reading can be like prayer. God already knows our true needs, our hurts and fears. We don't need to worry about speaking them just right—Paul says in *Romans* that the Spirit will speak them for us. But in praying, in speaking our needs, gratitude, silence, we reveal who we are now to ourselves. The same happens when we read.

You may dismiss all this as the ramblings of a former English teacher. Perhaps. But humor me. Try this. Read, big books, small books. Read the Bible. Sit with them as long as they tell you to. Chew on them; meditate on them; don't let them depart from your mouth; digest them; make them part of you. Be still, and you will know God. You may just know yourself.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Lectionary Texts

September

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>September 2 15th Sunday after Pentecost 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Song of Solomon 2:8–13 Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9 James 1:17–27 Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23</p> | <p>September 9 16th Sunday after Pentecost 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23 Psalm 125 James 2:1–10 (11–13) 14–17 Mark 7:24–37</p> | <p>September 16 17th Sunday after Pentecost 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Proverbs 1:20–33 Psalm 19 James 3:1–12 Mark 8:27–38</p> |
|---|---|--|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>September 23 18th Sunday after Pentecost- 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Proverbs 31:10–31 Psalm 1 James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a Mark 9:30–37</p> | <p>September 30 19th Sunday after Pentecost 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22 Psalm 124 James 5:13–20 Mark 9:38–50</p> |
|---|---|

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2018

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> | |
|-------------------------|--|---------|
| Tuesday, September 11 | Bart Fire Co. | 2:00 pm |
| Wednesday, September 19 | Grace United Methodist Church | 2:00 pm |
| Wednesday, September 26 | Lancaster General Hospital- 3rd floor balcony, James St. | 2:00 pm |

The Lancaster General Suburban Outpatient Pavillion (Health Campus) Blood Drive is located in Building 2104, Suite 202. The hours on Monday are 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m, Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call 717-544-0170.

**Sunday, September 9
OLD LEACOCK DAY**



**Picnic Time
at Old Leacock**

We will celebrate Old Leacock Day with a 9:30 service of worship at the church. Our yearly picnic will follow immediately afterwards. Hot dogs, rolls, drinks, silverware, cups, plates, napkins and condiments will be provided. Just bring a covered dish to share and chair to sit on while you eat and visit with your church friends celebrating our heritage of worshipping at Old Leacock!

Trustees Notes

The Building and Facilities collection for the September Trustees Special Offering will go towards the repair and painting of the Old Leacock sanctuary. According to our records, it was last done in 1986. I understand the walls were pretty bad then. This time we won't let them get that way. A good paint job has a lot to do with maintaining their condition. Also, some monies might be used for other minor fixes.

An early reminder: **Trustee Workday** in October is scheduled for **October 20** at 8:30 AM to about noon. Mark your calendar! The Trustees want to thank everyone for their support and, as always, if you see something that needs our attention, let one of us know. Thank you.

Dave Berkhimer
Trustee President



Leacock Book and Movie Group

September is here, and with it, the new season for the Leacock Book and Movie Group. Don't forget, we're reading *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle for our first 2018-19 book, and we will watch the movie version after reading it. Hope you will all join us on **Friday, September 21** at 5:30 for a pot luck dinner (please bring a covered dish) and discussion of the book.

Emily Birch, Book and Movie Group Coordinator

September Prayer Families

September 2
Robert, Cristen & Mackenzie Sharpe

September 9
Carroll & Carol A. Shearer

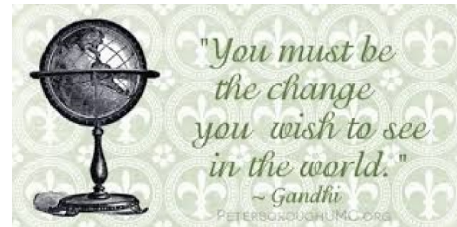
September 16
R. Scott, & Cathy Shenk

September 23
Brendon Shenk

September 30
Kelsi Shenk

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Leacock free community meals have been improving as far as numbers. We have been averaging about 90 community and church members plus 18-20 helpers for the last few months. Hopefully this will continue to be a community outreach and mission project. And once again a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who brings food and all the workers-those who pick up the desserts from Weis Markets, those who set up the fellowship hall, those who prepare and serve the meal, and those who clean up. Everyone working together makes this mission possible. Our next **community meal** is **Thursday, September 27**.



It is September and once again time to clean out closets, drawers, and wherever else you might keep clothes. Again this year, we are collecting good, clean used clothing to be donated to **Church World Services used clothing bank**. These clothes are given to local people who are in need. All you need to do is go through all your clothes and decide what you want to get rid of. Then just bring the items to the church any time during September, and leave the bag in the narthex. The mission committee will do the rest. But please remember, **NO UNDERWEAR** unless it is new and still in the original packaging.

Also, mark the date of October 21 on your calendars. This is the annual **CROP** walk in Paradise. We will once again start from Pavilion 2 in Paradise Park and walk as far as you want.. Watch the October newsletter for more on our walk.

STEWARDSHIP

Save the Date!

Sunday September 23

An Endowment Day

A Pot-Luck Meal will follow the church service, *AND* Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, a representative of the Presbyterian Foundation will be leading worship and a workshop on our church endowment fund and all the possibilities of "Leaving A Legacy." She has information to share with all of us. Plan to come and hear what she has to say.

Dear Friends at Leacock Presbyterian,

Just a note to let you know that our mom, Dorothy Durfee, widow of the late Rev. Harlan Durfee, has gone on to her heavenly reward.

She and my dad worshipped with you years ago when they lived in Wood's Home in Paradise. I know that they enjoyed this time in their retirement together.

Please let any "old timers" know of her demise. We are hoping to have a memorial service at Donegal Presbyterian in Mt. Joy - date uncertain.

Thank you for your love and ministry to my beloved parents.

Yours in Christ,
Anne E. (Dunfee) Drybala

Current Church Officers

Session Moderator: Rev. Robert W. Birch Clerk: Dianne Yuningger

Worship Committee:
Skip Brackbill (Class of 2019) Dianne Yuningger (Class of 2019)

Christian Education:
Tom Burkins (Class of 2019) Derek Colton (Class of 2019)

Church and Community Life:
Mary Alice High (Class of 2019) Linda Erikson (Class of 2018)
Charlene Boas (Class of 2018) Margy Hershey (Class of 2018)

Stewardship:
Steven Boas (Class of 2019) Marie Brackbill (Class of 2018)

Mission:
Lois Eshleman (Class of 2018) Alba Ruhl (Class of 2018)

| Deacons | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 | Class of 2020 |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Esta Fisher | Carol Berkhimer | Molly Colton |
| | Edwin Margerum | Katherine Boas | Robert Hershey |
| | Jennifer McElhaney | Gwen Hess | Brendon Shenk |
| | Sharon Williams | | Betty Sowers |

| Trustees | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 | Class of 2020 |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Richard Buck | Chuck Ankney | David Berkhimer |
| | David Homsher | Keo Phongsaysanith | Craig Keenan |
| | Scott Shenk | Michael Ruhl | Danielle Short |

A Letter from the Presbytery of Donegal

Dear Pastor Bob & Dianne:

Please thank the session and congregation of Leacock Presbyterian Church for remitting your entire 2017 Per Capita, in the amount of \$6,608.58.

For the sake of clarity, we also thought we would let you know that we have received \$304.42 towards your 2018 Per Capita in the amount of \$6,747.32.

We're grateful for your ministry and support.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Donegal

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Donegal

Choir Notes

For many years we at Leacock have been blessed with excellent choirs. So much so, in fact, that it is easy to take such a ministry for granted. Of course, the choir will be in the loft most Sundays from September through June. Of course, they will sing special anthems for Christmas and Easter.

As your organist and choir director, I have to tell you that there are some weeks when I wonder how much longer we can continue to meet these expectations. The time is quickly approaching when our music program will be in jeopardy. As folks retire or consider retiring from the choir for various reasons, we need others to fill the empty chairs.

Already I can hear the reasons many of you are giving for not reading any further into this article. She doesn't mean me—I only sing in the shower or in the car with the radio turned on full blast.

YES — I am talking to **YOU!** If you can sing, we need you.

Others are saying

I can't read music. Doesn't matter — that's why we practice.

I'm not professionally trained. Doesn't matter - most of us aren't.

The choir is full enough. Look again!

You don't need another _____ (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) Yes, we do!!!

I might have to sing by myself. Never— and that's a promise.

Dianne might yell at me. Only if you are her husband.

Here are the **top ten** reasons for you to sing with us:

10. Guaranteed seating — especially on Christmas Sunday and Easter.

9. Listen to Bob sing.

8. Watch the organist look over her glasses at you and then take them off to hear better. (I'm told that it's quite amusing.)

7. Know the hymns for Sunday in advance.

6. Live longer — research has shown that people who sing in church choirs have a longer life span.

5. Lead in worship without being up front all by yourself.

4. Add a new dimension to your spiritual life.

3. Form a bond of fellowship; we are just good friends you haven't made yet.

2. Wake up with a song in your heart — especially Monday and Thursday.

1. We need you.

Dianne Yuninger

Organist

Choir Director





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

I'm so often so surprised by the little ways in which people think of Bob and me. You guys are certainly paying attention to the things we do and say! One person, through the years, has touched us in so many ways. She'll read an article in the paper that makes her think of us, and she'll call us to make sure we see it. She's been known to stick up for Bob on many occasions when people were teasing him, although she's been known to tease him a time or two herself. And speaking of teasing, she puts up with all of his teasing (most recently about fireworks at Barnstormers games). She's so kind and thoughtful to us, picking up tickets for us at the Barnstormers games, offering to pick up batteries for us when we needed them for our garage door, and she most recently touched us both by saving a special napkin to give to Bob that she knew he'd like.

Thank you, thank you, **Shirley Smith**, for all the little and big kindnesses you've shown us.

Emily Birch

At-Home Member Birthday September 29

Ruth Bair
15 North Kinzer Road
Kinzers, PA 17535



USHERS

Ed Margerum, Head Usher

September

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| 9/2 | 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. | Skip Brackbill Chuck & Kathy Ankney |
| 9/9 Old Leacock Day | 9:30 a.m. | Chuck & Kathy Ankney |
| 9/16 | 9:30 a.m. | Chuck & Kathy Ankney |
| 9/23 | 9:30 a.m. | Chuck & Kathy Ankney |
| 9/30 | 9:30 a.m. | Chuck & Kathy Ankney |

October

| | | |
|-------|-----------|------------------------|
| 10/7 | 9:30 a.m. | Steven & Charlene Boas |
| 10/14 | 9:30 a.m. | Steven & Charlene Boas |
| 10/21 | 9:30 a.m. | Steven & Charlene Boas |
| 10/28 | 9:30 a.m. | Steven & Charlene Boas |

September Nursery On Call

SUNDAY SCHOOL

September

| | | |
|------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 9/16 | 9:30 a..m. | Emily Birch & Linda Erikson |
| 9/23 | 9:30 a..m. | Lois & Darwin Eshleman |
| 9/30 | 9:30 a..m. | Lois & Darwin Eshleman |

October

| | | |
|-------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 10/7 | 9:30 a..m. | Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey |
| 10/14 | 9:30 a..m. | Mary Alice High & Margy Hershey |
| 10/21 | 9:30 a..m. | Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter |
| 10/28 | 9:30 a..m. | Karen Homsher & Milt Hostetter |

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Articles for the October Newsletter
will be due Monday, September 24, 2018

THE LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR
Sandy Schoettle, Editor