



# The Back Pew

The Newsletter of Leesburg Presbyterian Church,  
Leesburg, Virginia.

*Serving God and Neighbor in the Heart of Leesburg since 1804*

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

November 2009

## Parsons' Point of View

What do Callie Grant, Dennis Welsh, Ann Gurney, Helen Taylor, Heidi Renner & family, and Mary Hunter Leach have in common? They all received a worship bulletin with a sparkly sticker on the back cover during worship on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Their "special" bulletin indicated that they were going to be given a "special" opportunity of receiving a \$20 bill and investing it in some way for the work of God's kingdom on earth. The challenge was either to use it for a holy purpose they discerned at work in our community or world, and/or to grow their twenty dollar gift into a larger sum that will be returned to the church's Pastor's Discretionary Fund that assists individuals and families in crisis.


During worship on Commitment Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, we will hear their investment stories even as we all will make a commitment of investing a portion of our financial resources for the ministry of Christ that happens in and through Leesburg Presbyterian Church.

My hope is that the creativity, the joy, the seriousness, the thoughtfulness that I've already observed in several of these six investors will be mirrored in every member's decision-making about their own commitment of giving for the coming year.

In pledging a portion of our financial resources, we are making a commitment to intentionally grow the faithfulness, the love, the sense of community and the ministries of compassion that by God's grace are sprouting forth from the good soil of Leesburg Presbyterian.

Grace & Peace,

*Debbie*



**CHILD CARE HELP NEEDED!**

**Do you love children?  
Do you have Fridays free from  
8:45 to 11:15am?**

This paid position provides child care for the weekly Mom's Alive! group and the monthly Book group. For more information or to apply, contact Karen Werner at [dce@lpcva.org](mailto:dce@lpcva.org) or [kewerner@comcast.net](mailto:kewerner@comcast.net). The position will be available in early November.



**Circle I**

Circle I will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 12th. All are welcome to join the group.

**Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles**

Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles will meet Wednesday, November 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. Betty Lowenbach will lead the third lesson on the Book of Joshua. All women are welcome to attend for a great time of learning and discussion. Contact Helen Taylor at 703-777-6338 if you have any questions.



**LPC Book Club**

The LPC Book Club will hold its next meeting on Friday, November 13th, to discuss the riveting life and times of Gertrude Bell, a contemporary of Lawrence of Arabia and a key figure in the early shaping of modern-day Iraq.

The Book Club meets in the lounge on the second Friday of each month. Our upcoming reading selections are listed below. At our December meeting we will decide upon reading selections for February-June 2010. Please feel free to attend any meeting, even if you have not finished the book being discussed. Contact Jennifer Marsh with questions (703-779-0042, [jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com)).

**November 13** — *Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations* by Georgina Howell

**December 11** — *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

**January 15** — *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

*"The LPC Book Club is a joyful group of readers who come together in a Christian environment to explore a wide range of literature in a safe and nurturing atmosphere. We welcome and value new, diverse points of view. Our aim is to grow individually and together strengthen our faith and our community."*

**News from the Session**

Among actions taken by the Session in October:

Received into LPC membership Angela Helge, Keith and Stacie Markel and David Parsons by Letter of Transfer; and Wayne Helge by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Approved a request to baptize Mikayla Greene, daughter of Lance and Tiffanie Greene, on December 13, 2009.

Approved a request to transfer the membership of Craig and Susan Witte to Rockford Methodist Church in Rockford, MI.

Authorized the Preschool Sunday School to make its pledge commitment to a food drive.

The Session offered commendations for:

- ✦ Wynne Rodgers and the deacons who coordinated the casserole patrol for families facing medical challenges.
- ✦ Donita Petersen, Rebecca Caprio, Denise Weidele and the Evangelism & Membership Committee for their work on the church directory.
- ✦ Rev. Parsons, for the positive changes she has brought to the church.
- ✦ Chris York, for his expertise and willingness to take on major property issues..

## New Orleans Mission Trip March 8-14, 2010

It's time to start planning for the fourth annual Katrina RECOVERY Team mission trip! The dates are March 8-14, 2010, and will include members of LPC as well as Catoctin Presbyterian in Waterford. If you were wary of the living conditions in years past this is the year to go. This year we will be working with RHINO (Restoring Hope in New Orleans), an outreach ministry of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian, with whom we worked in 2008. Their mission is to build new houses in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. If you have ever painted a room, installed a faucet, hammered a nail, screwed a screw, built a birdhouse, spackled a wall, carried supplies, used a power tool or are willing to learn, we can use you.

Why are we going again? If you haven't watched any documentaries on New Orleans, Liz Horton has a very good one she can share. So many people lost everything they had, often homes that had been passed for generations, and the majority of these folks do not have the means to rebuild. God asks us to help our brothers and sisters when they need help, and this is one way we can. Many of the other groups who came in the beginning are no longer coming back, but the church groups, and the Presbyterians in particular, still are. The people there are so thankful for that and see God's work first hand. It is a demonstration of God's love that is meaningful to those who experience it, both the workers and those receiving the help. We get as much as we give. It can only make the world better as we share the experience and God's grace together. And yes, we can have some fun too and boost their economy with some tourist dollars, which helps as well.

Anticipated costs are

- \$150 for the week to RHINO which includes lodging, 3 dinners and lunches Tuesday through Saturday. We will be housed at Brent House, a hotel, with 3 persons per room with 2 beds and a substantial roll away bed. LPC has traditionally paid for this cost from our National Mission Budget for each team member. Non-LPC members are very welcome to join us but will be asked to pay this room & board fee to the church.
- Travel which can be as low as \$200/person for airfare if you book soon or probably about the same if 2 or 3 travel together by car and include a night's lodging on the way.
- \$100 for the other 3 dinners and breakfasts but could be less or more depending on tastes. (Brent House has a cafeteria where you can get a good breakfast for around \$5. The rooms have large mini-fridges, microwaves, and plenty of space, so you may want to purchase your own foodstuffs and have breakfast in the room.)
- Some folks in the past planned to arrive in New Orleans a day early to enjoy the local culture – this can be discussed. Spending money for playing tourist is optional but a consideration. Look for the announcement of an interest meeting in November with planning and training meetings starting in January 2010. Leaders of the 2010 Katrina Recovery Team will be Liz Horton and Bertha Tiffany, who are previous

team members from Catoctin Presbyterian Church. They will coordinate with the RHINO staff and provide team leadership for both church groups. Contact Kathy Brown at LPC if you would like to know more about this mission opportunity.

### RHINO/Habitat for Humanity Typical Daily Work Schedule – (Different from past years!):

#### MONDAY 3/8/10:

- Groups arrive and check-in to Brent House after 3:00p.
- RHINO Orientation with Kate at the Land Building. 8:00p.
- Dinner on our own.

#### TUESDAY 3/9/10:

- Report to Ferry Place. 8:00a.
- Lunch masters pick-up water coolers after everyone is at the job site.
- Lunch provided by Mobile Loaves and Fishes. \*\*Bring snacks, because it could be late.\*\*
- Dinner provided by chefs Jim and Bonnie at the church. 6:00p.
- Lunch Masters make tomorrow's lunches in the kitchen of the Land Building after dinner.

#### WEDNESDAY 3/10/10:

- Report to Ferry Place. 8:00a.
- Lunch masters pick-up water coolers and lunches after everyone is at the job site.
- Sack lunches provided by Lunch Masters.
- Dinner provided by chefs Jim and Bonnie at the church. 5:30p.
- Lunch Masters make tomorrow's lunches in the kitchen of the Land Building after dinner.

#### THURSDAY 3/11/10:

- Report to Ferry Place. 8:00a.
- Lunch masters pick-up water coolers and lunches after everyone is at the job site.
- Picnic lunch provided Jim at Land Building. 12:30p
- Tour of New Orleans. Depart from the church. 1:30p.
- Dinner with church member(s). 6:00p.

#### FRIDAY 3/12/10:

- Report to Ferry Place. 8:00a.
- Lunch masters pick-up water coolers and lunches after everyone is at the job site.
- Dinner on your own.
- Lunch Masters make tomorrow's lunches in the kitchen of the Land Building in evening.

#### SATURDAY 3/13/10:

- Report to Ferry Place. 8:00a.
- Lunch masters pick-up water coolers and lunches after everyone is at the job site.
- Dinner on your own.

#### SUNDAY 3/14/10:

- Join church members for worship services. 8:30a or 10:30a.
- Check-out of Brent House before 2:30p

**Meet Our Newest Members**



**Adrian & Maral Amado.** Maral grew up in the DC area. Adrian was born in Havana, Cuba and came to the U.S. at age 12 with his family, when they moved to DC. A friend of Maral's set her up with her one and only blind date (Adrian). After marrying

and starting a family they decided to move to Leesburg. Adrian owns a heating and air-conditioning business and Maral is a special education TA. They have three children. Ossana, their eldest daughter is 14 and loves music—writing, playing and singing. Anthony is 11 and is in his third year of playing tackle football—playing linesman position. Annabelle, the youngest at 8, is a movie buff and loves to cook. Maral is Chris Pamboukian's sister and they started attending with Chris and Nora. They were happy to find a church they liked closer than their church in Chevy Chase.



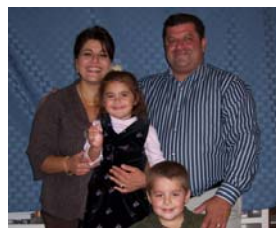
**Lee & Glenna Bingham.** Glenna grew up in Philadelphia and Lee in Maine. Lee retired from Georgia Pacific in 2006. His career as an operations trouble shooter had them move 15 times across the U.S. and Canada. They moved to Middle-

burg from Maine two years ago after doing research on places they'd like to live in retirement. As Presbyterians they looked for a Presbyterian Church and since they do most of their shopping in Leesburg they decided to try LPC and found a church they thought they'd enjoy. They have twin sons: Bradford in New Boston, NH and Jonathan in Silver Springs, who has two children. Glenna enjoys decorating and flower gardening. Lee, who has his own business now, is an avid fisherman and hunter and also enjoys landscaping.



**Wayne & Angela Helge.** Wayne grew up in the Chicago suburb of South Holland and Angela grew up in Connecticut. They met on a blind date while Wayne was attending the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. They moved to the area about

four years ago for Wayne's job in Tysons. He is a patent attorney. Angela is currently a stay-at-home mom with their two young daughters, Megan, 4, and Kate, 1. Growing up in Connecticut, Angela attended a small Lutheran church where several generations of her family attended. They wanted to find that kind of church here, so Megan's preschool teacher at St. James suggested they try LPC, and they feel they found the small close-knit family church they were looking for.



**Chris & Nora Pamboukian.** Nora grew up in Damascus, Syria. She came to the U.S. to attend college in Boston where she completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She taught school for three years. Chris grew up in Maryland

and moved to VA about 15 years ago. They met in Boston at the wedding of an Armenian friend, courted long distance and married nine months later. Chris is a commercial broker for retail real estate. They have two children, Shant, 4 ½ and Noelle, 2 ½ who both attend LPC Preschool. Because the children were attending preschool here, Nora became interested in and started attending the MA's group and helped with last year's bake sale. That involvement led to their attending services here where they like the friendly atmosphere.

**Keith & Stacie Markel.** Keith and Stacie are newlyweds, having just married last summer. They both grew up in Woodstock, VA. They have known each other since first grade and were good friends through school, but did not begin dating until after college. Keith has been the town manager of Lovettsville for three years. Stacie taught in Harrisonburg for six years and is now teaching second grade at Lucketts Elementary School. Keith is a history buff and when he was living with his brother in Leesburg before his marriage, he noticed our historic church and wanted to see inside. He and Stacie visited LPC the Sunday of Pastor Debbie's installation and found the church to be friendly and inviting and decided this is where they'd like to be.



**David Parsons.** David is the husband of Pastor Debbie. He is now in Virginia full-time since buying and moving into their new home in August. David is a life-long Texan, having been born in San Angelo, TX and raised in Texarkana, TX. David and Debbie met at Austin College where he was studying philosophy. Realizing a

philosophy major was of little value in the workplace at the time, he completed his MBA. He worked for the USAA for eighteen years in investments and mutual funds. When the job ended, he began teaching philosophy at a community college and will be teaching business ethics this spring at Nova. He and Debbie have two daughters, Molly, who recently went to South Korea where she will be teaching English as a second language, and Libby, who is a senior at Wooster College in Ohio.

Deadline for December Newsletter: November 15, 2009



LPC

## Alternative Giving Christmas Faire

December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

9:30 AM—11:00 AM &amp;

12N—1PM

For the past several years, our church has provided two Sundays to “shop” for gifts from several different organizations that LPC supports through the Mission & Witness budget and the congregation’s annual pledges and weekly donations. This year M&W will once again bring that opportunity to provide “gifts” to 4 deserving programs while the congregation can gift family, teachers, service providers and friends without the hustle and bustle of the shopping centers, and never having to worry about the correct sizes.

Come to the Fellowship Hall on the above dates after worship. Have some refreshments, listen to the holiday music and get in the Christmas spirit! Visit the display tables, talk to representatives for the alternative gifts and then browse through our selection of world- wide handcrafts from SERRV available for sale on the day of the Faire. You can then select one of 2 designs on a lovely gift card with envelope, available for sale and slip in the card that describes your alternate gift and know that you have helped many people.

Look for more information in the bulletins and a reminder in the December Newsletter. You will find a “Shopping List” here in the newsletter for your convenience in ordering ahead of time through the church office or mail. You may also bring it along on the day of the Faire. Questions may be directed to Kathy Brown or Pat Kropp.

# MOM'S ALIVE!

Mom’s Alive of Leesburg Presbyterian Church is a group of mothers with children of all ages, which meets once a week, on Friday mornings from 9am-11am. Our mission is to provide a social and supportive atmosphere for mothers in a Christian setting through fellowship, education and outreach. Areas of outreach include: LPC Preschool, Inova Loudoun Hospital, new/sick mothers, U.S. Military, and LPC home-bound, among others. Every meeting consists of fellowship, snacks, devotions, and an activity. Business

meetings are held monthly. Childcare in the nursery is provided free of charge in order to allow the mothers of Mom’s Alive! a chance for fellowship and a respite from their children. Moms need not be members of Leesburg Presbyterian Church to attend. All are welcome! For more information, see the bulletin board outside of the nursery, or contact Sarah Jones, MA! Secretary, [MASecretary@lpcva.org](mailto:MASecretary@lpcva.org) or Lauren Vogan, MA! Public Relations, [MAPublicrelations@lpcva.org](mailto:MAPublicrelations@lpcva.org). Please stop by and see what we are all about!

Deadline for December Newsletter: November 15, 2009

# Manna

## Manna Fellowship Dinners Will Conclude with a Potluck Dinner on November 11<sup>th</sup>

We'll provide the food, you provide the fellowship!

November 4<sup>th</sup>-Chili & Cornbread  
November 11<sup>th</sup>-Potluck

Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall; followed by a special series,  
***Alphabet Soup of Theology***  
lead by our pastor, Debbie Parsons from 6:40-7:15



### Salvation Army Mission Witness Opportunity

Our local Salvation Army recently proposed a program to address the needs of the hungry here in Loudoun County. They recognized that there would be a significant increase in the number of hungry/homeless people in our towns this year as well as the next few years. A canteen vehicle, similar to those used in disaster areas is now available and will travel with hot meals to two locations. After a meeting of several local churches, Interfaith Relief, representatives of Family Services and others, the program in Loudoun was launched this Fall. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the canteen vehicle began going to two parking lots, The Shenandoah Building in Leesburg and the Big Lots parking lot in Sterling. This is currently a Saturday-only program at the moment, but it has already served 300 meals. The hope of Captain Criss of the Salvation Army is to expand it so that hot meals are available on Sundays and then ideally on a daily basis to those people who are hungry and in need.

What does all this mean to the Leesburg Presbyterian congregation? We have a choice before us at this time – shall LPC become one of the key members of this community of caring? We have already contributed funds through a special offering. If some of our members hear “the call” to help, the Salvation Army could use our assistance in meal preparations for the Saturday program or help in the delivery of food to the two sites. With some guidance from a few good cooks, we could select an appropriate large volume recipe for one of the hot meal days. Then ask a

number of individuals to each make a batch of the selected recipe, refrigerate or freeze it and then an LPC volunteer or two could deliver all the food to the canteen site.

Several years ago, this need in part was met in a house on South King Street called “Daily Bread” but it closed its doors after the property changed owners and left a void that had not been addressed until now.

We are asked to consider what may be possible for Leesburg Presbyterian Church. Perhaps we have members of our congregation who might be interested in hearing more about a different kind of ministry. The Mission & Witness Committee will include the Salvation Army in our December Alternative Christmas Faire so you can learn more about their mission than by talking directly to staff members.

It would be a wonderful gift to our community if someone would step up to be the LPC Salvation Army Volunteer Coordinator. If you feel a call for this leadership position or to help out with cooking, serving or delivering meals, please contact Pat Kropp or Kathy Brown of the Mission and Witness Committee and we can explore together what we can do.

Deadline for December newsletter: November 15, 2009



It's not just your Kid's  
Sunday School

The 2009-2010 Adult Church School road trip continues. Take a look at what's ahead.

It's not too late to join in on some Conversations About Parenting. It's tough work being a parent – or grandparent. Ben Franklin and Nancy Van Zandt offer an opportunity for parents of children of all ages to hear about and discuss the challenges of leading Christian families in today's world. Through November 8, in Fellowship Hall.

Or stay the course with Dana Huntley as he explores the Church Family Tree, from its early beginnings, found in Acts, to its many forms today. Through November 8, in the Parlor.

Ready for a detour? Try NOOMA. "A new format for getting Christian perspectives," Nooma is a thought-provoking collection of short videos on a wide variety of faith life issues we care about. Join in the discussion! Led by Betty Lowenbach, classes meet in Fellowship Hall November 15th and November 22nd.

Just in time to "refuel" for the holidays, Karen Werner will lead us in an Intergenerational Advent Celebration. What better way to mark the beginning of Advent than with a church-wide fellowship event? November 29th in Fellowship Hall.



## INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT CELEBRATION



On Sunday, November 29th, in the Fellowship Hall, during the 9:45am Church School time we will have an event for children, youth and adults as we begin the season of Advent. Advent is the time when communities of faith, church and family, gather to celebrate the coming of Christ and share their stories.

### We Will:

- Make Advent wreaths (with a devotional) to use at home
- Create Advent calendars to help us count the days until Jesus is born
- Sing Advent carols
- Share stories and traditions

### Please Bring:

- A Christmas memory, such as an ornament or crèche and "its" story
- Christmas cookies to share

Join us as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christmas...when one thinks of the mystery and miracle of birth, of a new life brought into being—there is a sense of awe and wonder. Begin the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas with your church family.



**How to Introduce and Prepare our Children to Celebrate the Lord's Supper**

*Two class sessions during the Church School Hour*

**November 15<sup>th</sup> – Pastor and Parent Conversation—*"When and Why Children are Welcomed to the Table"***

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Parent/Child Workshop for Kinder-3<sup>rd</sup> Graders**

*"A Parent and Child Hands-on Exploration of Holy Communion"*

*Taught by Debbie Parsons & Karen Werner*

Deadline for December Newsletter: November 15, 2009

# "ALTERNATIVE" CHRISTMAS FAIRE SHOPPING LIST - 2009

Sunday, December 6 and Sunday, December 13  
 Leesburg Presbyterian Church-Fellowship Hall  
 9:30 -11:00 AM and 12:00 Noon -1:00 PM

		Quantity	Total \$ Sales
<b>Luwere Community, Malawi, Africa</b>			
1. Paraffin (fuel) to run Medical Clinic refrigerator for medicine storage	@ \$ 5.00	_____	_____
2. Blackboards and chalk for Primary & Sec. schools	@ \$10.00	_____	_____
3. "Timber" for church benches	@ \$20.00	_____	_____
4. Health Clinic supplies- gloves, medicines,	@\$30.00	_____	_____

## Heifer International Gifts to Families Around the World

Share of Honeybees (Full Share:\$30)	@ \$ 5.00	_____	_____
2. Share of Rabbits (Full Share: \$60)	@ \$10.00	_____	_____
Share of a Goat (Full Share: \$120)	@\$15.00	_____	_____
Flock of Chicks	@\$20.00	_____	_____
Share of Heifer (Full Share: \$500)	@ \$50.00	_____	_____

## Salvation Army, Loudoun County

Hot Meal for 1 person	@ \$5.00	_____	_____
2. Clothing Voucher for store shopping	@ \$10.00	_____	_____
3. Angel Tree Gift Card for 1 child	@ \$20.00	_____	_____
4. Grocery Store Gift Card for family	@ \$30.00	_____	_____

## Embangweni Hospital, Malawi, For Children in Need

Drugs, IV solutions- Pneumonia-2 children	@ \$10.00	_____	_____
Drugs - Malaria - 4 children	@ \$20.00	_____	_____
3. Child Charity Patients \$5/day-10 children	@ \$50.00	_____	_____

Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

# Cards\* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$.50 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: "Leesburg Presbyterian Church". Memo line: "Alternative Christmas Faire"  
 (Checks with order form may be mailed to 207 W. Market St. NE Leesburg, VA 20176)

\*Gift cards depicting either LPC in Winter or a Holiday theme design @ \$.50 will be available for you to send and will be mailed to you if your order is received by mail in the church office.

All orders will include a card with the description of the organization or project you choose to support.



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#### Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship	8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Choir	7:30 p.m.

**OUR CHURCH ELDERS:** Jim Barnes—Clerk, Kathy Brown, Ben Franklin, Frank Gasperini, Jason Hovda, Pat Kropp, William Marsh, Donita Petersen, Chuck Rodgers, John Sawyer, Beth Shockley, Bill Wingardner, and Chris York.

**DEACONS:** Nancy Blaine, Wendy Bourloulukas, Rebecca Caprio, Mike Christensen, Sheila Finney, Tom Gurney, Matt Howard, Julie Koochagian, Peggy Moats, Jennifer Morris, Shirley Pearson, Betty Robbins, and Wynne Rodgers

Sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter at [www.lpcva.org](http://www.lpcva.org)!

Leesburg Presbyterian Church  
207 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176

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The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.