



Leacock Communicator

Volume 55 - Number 7

September 2015

Notes from the Manse

Soon, the seasons will again be changing. The nights are growing a little longer; the days are a bit cooler. All around us we see signs of the beginnings of harvest time— what a blessing it is to live in this area surrounded by such bounty! Now, I am sure there are more than a few kids who probably would like to see the summer linger, for there is that matter of a new school year. But I think they will learn that the rhythm of the seasons is a good thing, that, as *Ecclesiastes* taught, there is a time for every matter under heaven.

Still, before we leave one season for another it is good to reflect on what has happened, where we have been and what we have done. It can be so easy in this increasingly fast-paced world in which we live to race on to the next thing so quickly that we forget the good of what we have had. Think about it. Do you remember your history grade in 9th grade or how much you had in your bank account seven years ago? Probably not. We spend a lot of time with facts and figures; we can become addicted to trying to measure our lives. But all that we tend to forget. What we do remember are stories. *Matthew 13* says that Jesus told those who followed him many things in parables. Well, why? Take for instance the Parable of the Good Samaritan. A lawyer had asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. He was probably hoping for a simple list, a clear code of behavior that he could strive to follow. Jesus instead spoke of love, of loving God and neighbor. Now this wasn't all that clear—who, the lawyer wanted to know, was his neighbor? Jesus could have given a nice, well-organized lecture on the philosophical and ethical value of caring for people different than us. But he didn't. He told a story, a story of love without expectation of return, love for what amounted to an enemy. And we remember that story so much better than we would have a lecture.

So, let us take the time now to think of what have been our stories this summer. What were those moments shared with others that touched you, perhaps changed you? Were there times you were alone and something in God's good creation moved you, gave you a sense of yourself, a sense of God, you might not have had before? Did you witness somebody do even a simple thing that helped you see that person in a new light? Don't let those moments slip away—they are what build a life.

And one more thing. In a few weeks, on September 13th, we will be celebrating Leacock's 275th anniversary. I would appreciate it if you would do me a favor. I have been spending a fair amount of time looking through what I can find about Leacock's history. We have a fine little booklet covering from 1740-1976. But much of it has to do with pastors and building improvement and formation of committees. All that is good, but what I was looking for were the stories of the people of the church, for those stories are what make a church. So, think back over your years at Leacock, whether you have been a member for a long or short time. What are the stories that come to mind, stories of grace, of times that made all the difference? Remember them, and if you will, share them with me. Write me a note; give me a call. For it is in those stories that we witness the Spirit blowing through our lives, the presence of the God of history amongst us.

Rev. Robert W. Birch

**Lectionary for Sundays
in September and
October**

Sept 6 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2: 1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Sept 13 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 1: 20-33
Psalm 19
James 3: 1-12
Mark 8: 27-38

Sept 20 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 31: 10-31
Psalm 1
James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9: 30-37

Sept 27 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9: 20-22
Psalm 124
James 5: 13-20
Mark 9: 38-50

Aug 24 Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Aug 31 Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Oct 5 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3: 4b-14
Matthew 21: 33-46

Oct 12 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 32: 1-14
Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14

Oct 19 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 33: 12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Matthew 22: 15-22

Oct 26 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 34: 1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
Matthew 22: 34-46



Please Pray For

Sept 6 Cassandra Leitch
Sept 13 Lori Ann Leitch
Sept 20 Matthew & Michele Lichy,
Ian, Lea, & Sara
Sept 27 Evie & Nick Lopez

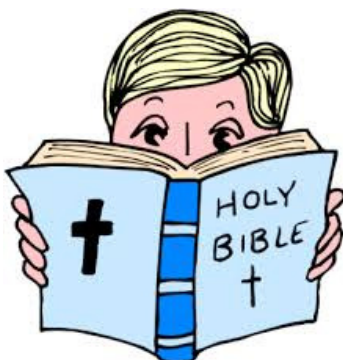
Communion Sept 13

On September 13 at our Anniversary Service, we will observe Holy Communion by Intinction. As always, we will bring the elements to any who wish to remain in the pew. An alternative station will be provided for those who prefer an individual cup.

Final Hymnsing of the Summer

If you haven't made it to one of our historic hymnsings yet this season, you have one more chance on September 6, which is Labor Day weekend.

Join us for this community tradition of a spirited evening of old and new favorites at Old Leacock at 7:00pm. Hope to see you all there!





CCL Committee News
Barnstormers Game

The CCL Committee is hosting a NIGHT OUT at the Lancaster Barnstormers on Saturday, September 5 at 7 pm.

Special events at Clipper Stadium that day include a car show in the afternoon and fireworks after the game. Come out and support Chad and Paula Hughes who will be the featured singers for the National Anthem and "America the Beautiful" at the game.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact Jenny Keenan at 717-471-1448 for more information or to reserve your seats. Tickets are \$9/seat and must be pre-paid to Jenny by Sunday, August 30. Feel free to invite your friends and family, and we hope to see you at the game!

Trustee News

Special Offering – the Building and Facilities Fund for the month of September will go into a fund to be used to replace our Manse furnace which is deteriorating but won't be replaced until necessary. Thank you all for your support.

Work Day – It's that time of year again, the Trustees have set, Saturday, October 17th, 8:00am to noon for FALL WORK DAY. Mark your calendars; just remember many hands make light work.

Old Leacock Day
Memories

There will be an area for memorabilia, greetings, remembrances and reflections at the Old Leacock Day 275th Anniversary celebration.

If you have anything you wish to display, please contact the church office.

Thank you to the 275th Committee: Ralph Homsher, Bonnie Rice, Richard Smith, and Skip Brackbill.



Old Leacock Day

Come celebrate Leacock's 275th Anniversary on September 13 at Old Leacock. We will celebrate at one 9:30am service with communion and special music.

Our traditional **Old Leacock Day Picnic** following the service will be extra special this year.

Please bring lawn chairs and a covered dish to share.

The CCL committee will be providing hotdogs, rolls, drinks, potato and macaroni salads, and paper goods. There will also be a birthday cake in honor of this special anniversary occasion as we look ahead to another 275 years together!

Save the date, invite your friends and family, and spread the word.



A Boy Named Stanley **(Mission Committee)**

We would like to introduce you to a little 5-year-old boy named Stanley Washington, Jr. He lives in a village of Papua, New Guinea where, as many of you know, our congregation has sponsored a missionary couple, the Farrs, through Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The Farrs have spent many years in Papua, New Guinea translating the New Testament into the Korafe language so the people can read of God's love in their own language. They have accomplished this and are now working on the Old Testament.

Jim Farr has relayed to us the plight of one young boy and his family. One of the native villagers helping with the translating is Stanley Washington, Sr. He noticed that his son, Stanley, Jr. was struggling physically to keep up with other children when playing. Stanley, Jr. became short of

breath and extremely tired. A doctor was scheduled to visit their village to do immunizations and checkups. Stanley took his son to the clinic to be seen by the doctor. The doctor's report was not good.

Since no other testing equipment was available, the doctor used his stethoscope and detected that Stanley, Jr. had serious heart problems. However, he couldn't determine exactly what they were. His initial feeling was that substantial surgery would be needed for a cure.

Unfortunately, the only hospital that can handle major heart surgery is in the capital, Port Moresby. This would mean a trip to the provincial capital, Popondetta, to catch a plane to Port Moresby, staying with someone for a week to a month, paying hospital co-pays, and then reversing the process. This would be just the first step to get a definitive diagnosis.

If the right doctor can be found in Port Moresby, the surgery might be done there. If not, then a trip to Australia would be necessary. As you can see, this is quite a complicated situation.

The Session of Leacock has approved our giving a "love gift" to Stanley and his family. A container for your contributions will

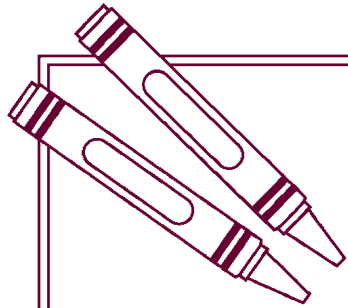
be placed in the back of Old Leacock Church and in the Narthex at the Paradise Church. The containers will be in place for six months until the end of January 2016. The money collected will be sent to help defray medical and travel expenses for Stanley and his family. In January, the situation will be revisited to see if more help is needed.

An initial amount of \$700 has already been sent. Unfortunately, that doesn't even cover transportation to Port Moresby.

We are asking the congregation for help. Just put a few pennies away each day, or empty your pockets of change on Sunday mornings...every little bit helps.

Please prayerfully consider this mission project—we have the privilege to help save a little 5-year-old boy's life. Thank you.





Just for **KIDS**

A Message of Love

Luke 10:27 has a wonderful message to live by.

Find the message by writing the opposite words next to the ones given.
Then transfer the letters to the numbered lines they match below.

cool	soft
1 2 3 4	20 21 22 23
under	old
5 6 7 8	24 25 26 27 28
out	after
9 10	29 30 31 32 33 34
large	false
11 12 13 14 15	35 36 37 38
quiet	
16 17 18 19	

“ _____

14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23

1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23


1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19

1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20

2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 15 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23 ;”

21 27 23 , 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33

13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31 .”



Answer: warm, over, in, small, loud, hard, young, before, true, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Women of Leacock, All Women, All Ages Welcome
Come, All Who Thirst, Come to the Waters Listen to Me

“Just as humans cannot live without water, Christians cannot imagine living without the Word of God. Water and the Word go hand in hand as we strive to live as faithful followers. This Bible study turns to some of the water stories and images in the Bible to enable us to learn more about God and how God would have us live our lives. This study also draws our attention to the power of water, its potential, and the effects on our lives and culture. We are invited to remember that water is precious and that clean water is unavailable to millions of people. Water and Word work together to quench the thirsts of our bodies and our souls.” - Judy Fletcher

Lesson One Birthing Waters-Creation, Read Genesis 1:1-2:4

Three Opportunities for Gathering at the Water and Word:

2nd Thursday, September 10, 9:30am at the home of Arlene Brackbill - 390-9827

2nd Monday, September 14, 7:30am in the Church Fellowship Hall (walking at 7:00am)

3rd Tuesday, September 15, 7:30pm in the Church Library

Truly, all women are welcome—the more we share the Word and our faith with one another, the more we individually and collectively benefit. Please prayerfully consider being part of these small, **yes small and non-threatening**, groups. Any questions, please call Marie Brackbill at 201-4211 or Arlene Brackbill at 390-9827.

Men of Leacock

the women have enjoyed the small group atmosphere of our shared Bible studies for decades. Maybe men would also be enriched by a similar experience of a men’s-only small group, gathering around the Word for personal growth and mutual support. I’m taking a poll to see if this is of interest to any of you. Please call or talk to me, Marie Brackbill, 717-201-4211. Thank you.

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 SEPTEMBER 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wednesday, Sept 2	Gordonville Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, Sept 9	Bird-in-Hand Fire Company	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Thursday, Sept 17	Yoder's Market	2:00pm to 7:00pm
Tuesday, Sept 22	Lampeter-Strasburg HS	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 June & July 2015

	Offering June		Expenses June	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$14,491	\$17,336	\$16,661	\$16,394
Year-to-Date	\$92,899	\$95,589	\$96,318	\$100,248

Budget Tracking Through June

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$96,318	\$100,248
% of Budget Spent	43%	44%

	Offering July		Expenses July	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Monthly Total	\$12,111	\$19,435	\$19,266	\$16,403
Year-to-Date	\$105,010	\$115,024	\$115,584	\$116,651

Budget Tracking Through July

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$225,312	\$226,889
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$115,584	\$116,651
% of Budget Spent	51%	51%

When last we looked at the church finances, it was for the month of May and at the end of May, we were only \$1,261 behind in offering versus expenditures. Not wonderful, but also not too bad, as we had enough in the church's account to absorb that amount of deficit. Looking at June and July, we see a much different picture because of unusually low offering amounts.

Now, at the end of July, we are **\$10,574 BEHIND** in offering versus expenditure. Expenditures include paying our employees, paying taxes, paying for utilities etc... Things I would not consider discretionary spending, but very much required. Any spending that can be controlled to a minimum is being controlled. The bottom line is we need more offering to continue to be able to operate normally. Please, please consider whatever you could do to help out more during this time. Your church needs your financial support now, more than ever. Thank you so very much!

Welcome Back Returning Youth Welcome to

New Youth Members

We're happy to announce the kick off of the 2015-16 youth group year with our first meeting on Sunday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. Welcome back to members who've been with us for a while, and welcome to new members! Remember, the youth group is open to anyone in grades 7-12. They do not have to attend Leacock, so please invite your friends to join us, if you think they might be interested in our youth group activities.

We're looking forward to another year of exploring faith questions and ideas with all of you. And, of course, playing games. Feel free to bring your own board games and to share other games with us.

This year, we plan to Make the Homeless Smile again in Philadelphia with backpacks and other necessities. Also, we'd like to work on providing clothing for teens in our community who may not be able to afford them. We'll need to come up with some fun ways to raise money. If you have any ideas, we hope you'll share them at our first meeting.

The fall youth group schedule will be as follows:

Sept 20: 7-8:30 p.m.
Oct 4: 7-8:30 p.m.
Oct 18: 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov 1: 7-8:30 p.m.

Nov 15: 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov 29: no youth group
Thanksgiving
Dec 13: 7-8:30 p.m.
Dec 27: no youth group
Christmas

If you ever have any questions about youth group meetings, you can call or text Emily on her cell phone: 717-725-6572 or email: emilymb95@gmail.com. Those of you on Facebook can also email via Facebook mail.

Emily Birch and
 Charlene Boas
 Youth Group Leaders

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

Many of the trustees have been doing so much work around the church and the manse during this period when we haven't had an outdoor sexton, and they all deserve our thanks. I don't think a day goes by that Bob and I don't walk out the door and run into George or Karen Shue or Dave Berkhimer or Sean Carney. As you know, not only do they take care of the church grounds, but they also take care of the manse grounds, and we're lucky to have them.

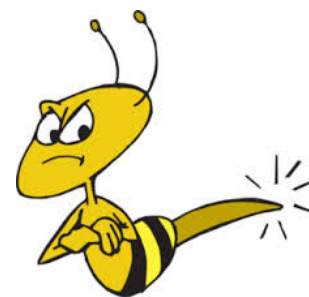
One of them, though, really went above and beyond the call of duty

recently. As some of you may have noticed, Bob and I like to keep the little area by our back door as wild and as free as we possibly can, letting God surprise us with its beauty, and as a natural reminder that God's in control.

This year, God apparently decided to bless us with some bees (just in time for bee celebration day, some of you may have noted if you read the local paper). Anyway, poor Dave Berkhimer was busy working around the manse, and he got stung by 10 (yes, 10!) bees.

Luckily, he survived, and even warned us about them as he was driving out of the parking lot to go home and tend to his wounds, so we wouldn't get stung. Sorry, Dave, for the attack of the bees! But thank you and God bless you for all you've done, and thank you for the warning.

Emily Birch



A New Year and a New Time for our Sunday School Children

We are very excited to kick off Sunday School this year at Leacock on Sunday, September 20th, 2015, and we are looking forward to having your child(ren) join us.

The Christian Ed Committee has made some changes this year to make the most of the children's Sunday morning experience at our church. Rather than having Sunday School between services as in the past, the children will be dismissed for Sunday School during the 10:30am service after the anthem and the children's sermon.

At Sunday School, the children will learn about people and lessons from the Bible in a fun way, based on the successful Vacation Bible School model we've used for a number of years.

All children in grades kindergarten through 6th grade are encouraged to join us for Sunday School. The curriculum is designed to be engaging and will allow them to participate by asking questions, learning prayers, singing, and doing crafts. If they prefer to stay in church with you, they may do so.

There will be some Sundays set aside throughout the church year

when children will stay in church and worship with us.

Parents are invited to join their children on Sunday September 20, so they can see what the children will be doing in Sunday School and discover what fun we plan to have this year, helping our young ones develop and grow in their faith.

Adult Sunday School

Have you ever wondered what happened after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection? What inspired the followers of Jesus to carry his message? And with no formal record of his teachings for 40-50 years, what was the message they carried? Who most readily responded, and why? How did Jesus' heavily Jewish message eventually become a distinct, even anti-Jewish, religion? What are the sources available to study the period, and how reliable are they? Did Paul change the message that Jesus preached? What controversies arose within Christianity, and how were they dealt with?

These, and other questions will be examined through the fall Sundays, as we view the period from the resurrection to the conversion of Constantine.

Join the adult Sunday School

class meeting between the 8:00am service and the 10:30am service in the church library.

All welcome!

New Year New Meeting Time

The Leacock Book and Movie Group (due to its coordinator's involvement with the youth group) is going to switch its meeting nights from Sunday to Friday in the 2015-2016 year.

We're hoping this might encourage more people to join us. We will kick off the new year on Friday, September 18 at 5:00 p.m. with a pot luck and a viewing of the documentary *The Orphan Trains*.

This will be an opportunity for those who didn't get to join us for the trip to the train museum to learn about this fascinating little piece of American history.

Please join us and come with book titles, so we can choose the next book we'll be reading. We will this year, as we have been doing, alternate meetings to discuss a book and then to watch and discuss a movie related to it.

Emily Birch
Book and Movie
Group Coordinator

USHERS - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Skip Brackbill, Head Usher
8:00 Service

Ed Margerum, Head Usher
10:30 Service, (442-4027)

September

Don Andrews

Dave Berkhimer

Tracey Dippner

Carol Berkhimer

October

Nick Lopez

Bob Hershey

Evie Lopez

Margie Hershey

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. They will contact the church office. THANK YOU!

NURSERY - SEPTEMBER

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

Sept 6	10:30	Mary Alice High & Johanna Gingher
Sept 13	10:30	No Nursery
Sept 20	8:00	Sue Funk
	10:30	Sean & Maureen Carney
Sept 27	8:00	Ellen Barnes
	10:30	Michele & Sara Lichty



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

Leacock Presbyterian Church

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September

The next newsletter dead-
line is Sunday, September
20. Thanks.

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