

THE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

FROM THE PASTOR

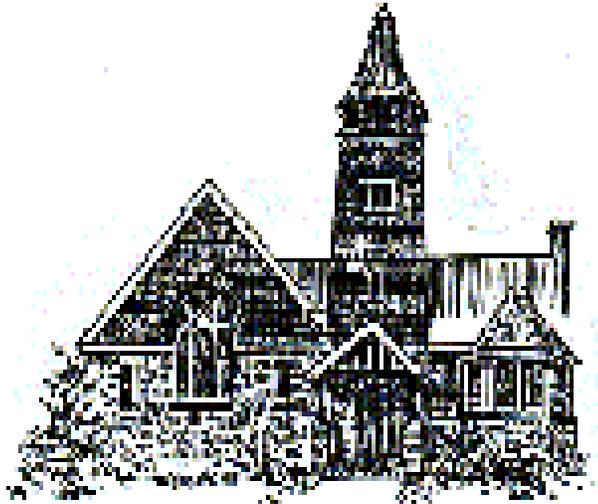
Did you know that many people think they would not be welcome in church? One of our church members told me that before she came here, she assumed that people would not want her here. As someone from a Spanish-speaking background, she thought of us as a white English-speaking church where she would feel out of place. So she would take a long bus trip, back to the church in her old neighbor in the Bronx, until a friend finally convinced her to give us a try. Another member told me she wouldn't normally walk into an English-speaking church, but she saw our sign board had the word "welcome" in her own language, so she decided to come one Sunday. Now she's here every week.

But you don't have to be from a different language group to assume you would be out of place in a church. Some people are just not familiar with church culture. Some of

our ESL students were surprised to find that you don't have to be a member to attend worship. Anyone is welcome here, members, non-members, seekers, doubters, as well as people of faith. But many people don't know that.

How do we let people know? What messages do we send about who is welcome in our church?

A few weeks ago I attended a conference called "Building an Inclusive Church." The focus of this conference was on welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. These are groups that often assume they are not welcome in church, and for good reason. Many people at that conference shared stories of being judged, rejected, or kicked out of the church they grew up in and loved. When they were honest about their identity, they were not welcome. Some of them even gave up their faith altogether because of it.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. BOX 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358
FAX. 201 944-6812
WEBSITE WWW.PRESBYLEONIA.ORG

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRI.
9 A.M. -12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.

But eventually each of them found a church that welcomed and affirmed who they are. How wonderful to finally find a loving community where they could explore and practice their faith as the people God created them to be.

This conference was important because it reminded me of our call to share the good news of God's love with everyone.

Continued on page 2

HEADLINERS:

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR SUMMER CAMP? See note on page 2

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE CLOSING, Information on pages 4 & 5

GARAGE SALE - MAY 17—HELP WANTED Articles on pages 3 & 6

ATTENTION: CLEAN-OUT AT THE OELHAF HOUSE CANCELLED UNTIL, SUNDAY, MAY 18

From the Pastor (continued)

If we are to be a truly multicultural and inclusive church, we cannot forget our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters.

Acts 10:34 says "... God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him." We are not prejudiced in this church and most of us genuinely try to understand and welcome people the best we can. But we can't expect anyone outside to know that, especially if they have been conditioned to believe that Christians are against them. How can we get the message out that we follow a God who shows no partiality...that everyone is loved by God and welcome here?

This is a challenge and a call. May we respond together, with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Debra Given

	Worship Schedule	

Sunday, May 4 — 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, May 11—10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day will include a Celebration of the Lord's Supper
3 p.m. Japanese Language Worship

Sunday, May 18- 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Linda Rubingh
Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, May 25 - 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR
SUMMER CAMP?**

Parents, are you planning **SUMMER CAMP** for your kids? Pick up a Camp Johnsonburg brochure and give your children a great experience at our Church Camp, a carefully crafted program with lots of fun and new friends, and a place to grow in their faith. There are half-week camps for grades 1-3 and one or two week camps for older children and teens. Camps range from sports to explorers, crafty and cookout camps, soccer or science, mystery or music/art/drama camps, biking or tubing, ropes and rocks, canoeing, archery or water world camp and so much more! Scholarships are offered by our church.

There are also one, two or three day **FAMILY** options in July and August sleeping in tents, cabins or in the lodge. Check out these great opportunities for a family vacation.

OPEN HOUSE: MAY 3 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------|-------------------|
| May 1 | Kazuko Abe |
| May 2 | Pamela Wright |
| May 4 | Phyllis Ann Puzzo |
| May 8 | Leo Voreacos |
| May 15 | Jack Peters |
| May 16 | Joe VanDeWeert |
| May 19 | Tony Puzzo |
| | Rena Marie Shim |
| May 22 | Sonia Solano |
| May 25 | Diane Borer |
| May 27 | Isaac Archbold |

PLEASE LET MICHELE, (201-944-1358) KNOW IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY AND WOULD LIKE IT LISTED.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE GARAGE SALE??

We need new or gently used items to sell. You may drop off all items Wednesday-Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m. If these hours are not good for you, please contact Fumio Ito. Please leave all items behind the ark in the Entry Room. Anything that is not sold should be picked up by the donor at the end of the sale, or on Sunday morning.

In order to make the most money possible, we are asking for YOUR help. Can you donate a case of water and/or soda? We also need 30 bagels, butter and cream cheese. And finally, two large thermal trays filled with ice. If you can help with any of these things, please speak with Fumio Ito.

We also need your help to spread the word. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come and shop. We especially need help on the day of the sale. Please sign up in the entry room.

Remember, all the money we make at this garage sale will go to the Children of Uganda.

Ushers:	5/4	Suzanne Broffman, Susan Dindial & Karen Peters
	5/11	Fara Razafy, Vicky Li & Lisa VanDeWeert
	5/18	Barbara & Michael Sofia & Roberta Toolen
	5/25	Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis

Offering Counters:	5/4	Ginny Brown & Hyung Kune Shim
	5/11	Pete Shanno & Fumio Ito
	5/18	Olivia Taylor & Johnathan Phillips
	5/25	Fumio Ito & Ginny Brown

Childcare:	5/4	Lisa VanDeWeert
	5/11	Sarah Han
	5/18	Vicky Li
	5/25	Joe VanDeWeert



CLEAN-UP DAY

Please save **Saturday, June 7th, from 9-12** for an outside clean-up of our church. More details to come.

Thank You

The final total for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** collected on Palm Sunday was \$3,239 plus \$50.05 in the banks from the children. The money will support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Fund, and the fund for the Self-development of People. The **Easter** offering totaled \$1,282 which will be split between The Center for Food Action and Loaves and Fishes. .

DO YOU NEED HELP AT HOME?

Do you need a helping hand at home, in the yard, a cleaning job on a regular basis? Delio Castellanos, our custodian, is looking for additional work. Give him a call at 862-888-8681. He may be able to help you.



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church will be ending its ministry in Leonia the end of June. They are inviting us to join them in celebration of 88 years of mission and ministry, at a worship service on Sunday, June 29th beginning at 3 p.m. There will also be a catered dinner in the Fellowship Hall of the church immediately following the service. Please use the attached flier to RSVP for the worship service and/or the dinner.

We are also invited to participate in a joint choir during the service. If you or some one you know would like to sing in the choir, please contact Cantor Carol Weber at carolorganistin@gmail.com

Pastor Peggy Niederer
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
313 Woodland Place
Leonia, NJ 07605
201-947-1332 pniederer@aol.com

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Natalie Allen
who died Saturday, April 26, 2014, She was 86.



*Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Cordially Invites you to Attend the
Closing Service and Reception of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
313 Woodland Place
Leonia, New Jersey
on
June 29th 2014
3:00pm
Reception Dinner
Immediately Following
in the
Fellowship Hall*

Please RSVP by: June 14, 2014

- Unable to Attend
- Attend Service
- Attend Service and Reception
- Attend Reception

Name: _____

- Total No. of Guests _____
- Total No. of Guests _____
- Total No. of Guests _____



Please send your response in the enclosed envelope to Diane Errick, 52 Hemlock Drive,
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

You are welcome to copy this invitation and invite others.

Garage Sale **to benefit Ugandan Children in Africa**

Japanese, Korean & American sellers

The Presbyterian Church in Leonia is sponsoring a Japanese, Korean & American Garage Sale to raise funds for the Children of Uganda.

There are more orphans in Uganda than anywhere else in the world – over 2.4 million children – due to the AIDS epidemic, extreme poverty, and decades of civil conflict. Children of Uganda gives over 300 children safe shelter, food, clothing, education and medical care, from age 5 all the way up to completing their secondary education, vocational training or university. In Uganda, there are no public schools, so without school fees, children don't learn. Each child who is educated, fed and safe is a strong foundation for peace. You can visit the website www.childrenofuganda.org for pictures and more information about the organization.



Date: May 17th (Sat) 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
(rain or shine)

Place: Presbyterian Church in Leonia
181 Fort Lee Rd., Leonia, NJ 07605

Beverages will be available for sale all day.

Come, shop, and help us raise money
for this worthy cause.

May 10th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!

*** To Player: Bring instruments and play with pro.**

Any level of player is welcome!

Please bring tunes from the "The Real Book".

*** No fee but small donation is accepted to cover utility cost.**

WHEN: May 9, 2014 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Open: 7:30 pm
Next Session: June 1, 2014 (Fri), same time.
Program will continue once a month,
Every second Friday night.

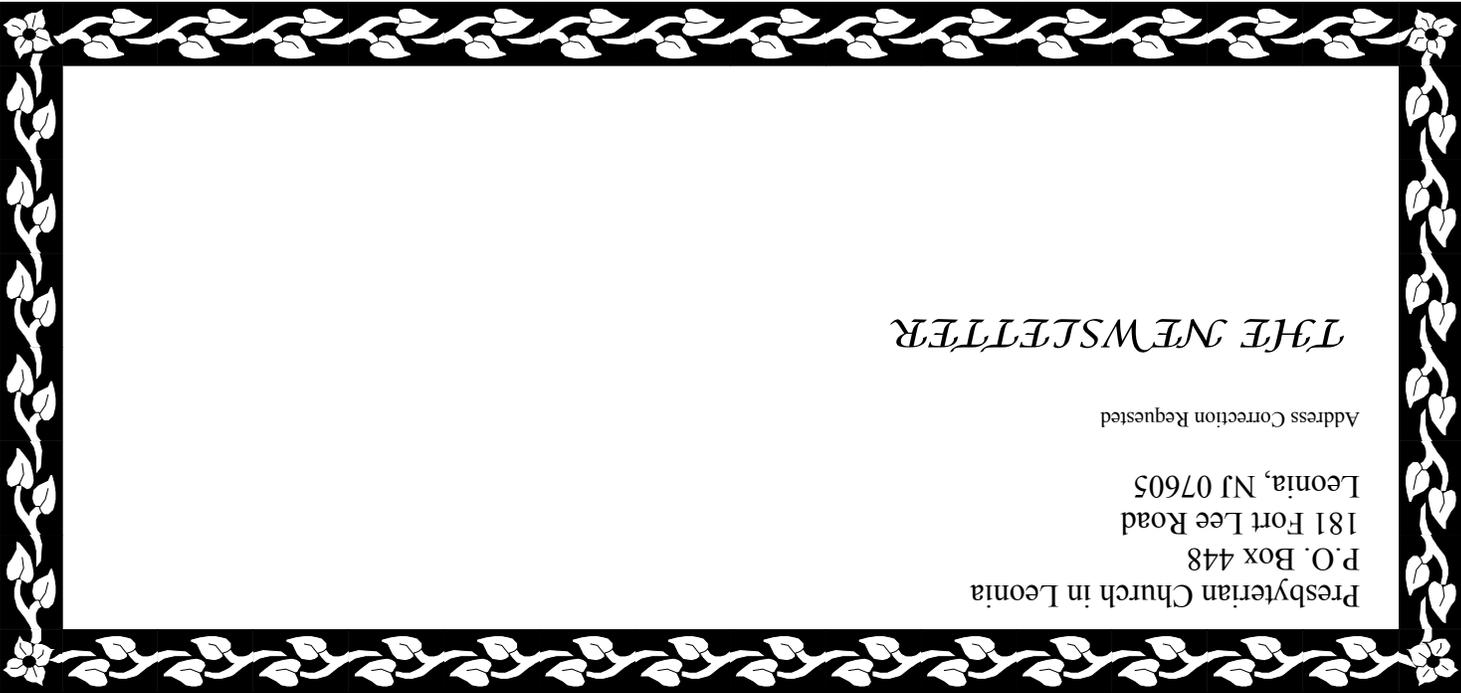
WHERE: The Presbyterian Church in Leonia
181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605
(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)

Led by: Foreign Exchange
Michael Hinton (Piano)
Yoshi Koyama (Sax)
Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)
Shai Rodriguez (Drums)
April Johnson (Keyboard)
Mike Ito (Guitar)



Please contact the following for any question.
Church: secretaryleonia@yahoo.com or 201-944-1358
Coordinator, Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net or 201-679-6616

Church website: www.leoniapres.org



THE NEWSLETTER

Address Correction Requested

Presbyterian Church in Leonia
P.O. Box 448
181 Fort Lee Road
Leonia, NJ 07605

THE NEWSLETTER

FALL RETREAT

Our church retreat will be held the weekend of **September 13 and 14**. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

You can come for the whole weekend and stay overnight or you may just want to come for Saturday Sept. 13th. The weekend includes a bagel breakfast, lunch, dinner and a late evening wine and cheese mingle, an overnight stay and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. The accommodations are comfortable and the lodges have their own kitchens.

Every retreat has a different theme. Last years was on communication, having the title "Can You Hear Me Now?" and a creative edge which revolved around "The Tower of Babel". Several teams competed for building the tallest tower.

I found that you take many memories away from the experience of being together outside the church, from the mist rising from the lake in the early morning, the campfire glow, the guitars accompanying the sing along and tasting the delightful s'mores created by Lisa VanDeWeert. During the weekend we also met in groups, discussing biblical topics and exploring what these verses meant to us personally.

The food was excellent. I especially recommended the golden French toast served Sunday morning. Later that Sunday morning we conducted worship service in the outdoor amphitheater. After lunch we all took our leave, taking with us the memories of a weekend spent with each other.

There will be child care and scholarships available, and more details will follow. The committee will meet May 28th at 7:30pm. Please join us for the meeting.

Michael A. Sofia 201 343 6206, Sfmchl@aol.com