

THE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

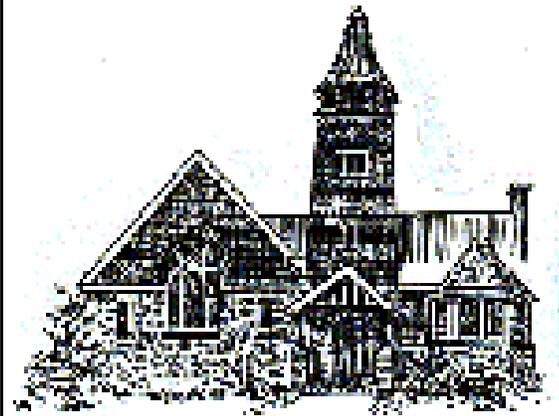
FROM THE PASTOR . . .

When I first started serving the Presbyterian Church in Leonia as pastor, some of our members thought of summer as a time to “take a break” from church. Well, we don’t do that anymore. It’s true that our choir doesn’t rehearse and sing, and our Sunday School classes don’t meet during the summer. But the place was packed for worship almost every Sunday this summer. We baptized a baby, blessed back packs, held a class on prayer, and gathered for communion. Different members offered special music. The singing was lively, the nursery was hopping and the spirit was moving. People often lingered after worship to visit and catch up with their brothers and sisters in the faith. And we had extra fun gathering after worship one Sunday for a Strawberry Festival.

We were also busy with extra service projects in the

summer. In July twelve people took turns providing dinner and overnight supervision for several families in need with the Family Promise Homeless shelter. Five people helped to build a house with Habitat for Humanity, banging nails to secure flooring in a single family home in Paterson. And eleven of our members (plus a good number of family and friends) traveled to Guatemala to help build “bottle schools” with an organization called Hug It Forward, while also learning about the culture and history of Guatemala.

Isaiah 58 (vs. 11) says, “The Lord will guide you continually... and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” When we stay connected to God and with the community of people God has called us to be part of, it brings growth and life.



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.LEONIAPRES.ORG

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

As we enter a new program year in September, I hope we can keep up the energy and spirit of the summer. Keep worshipping with all your heart! Keep getting to know each other, and responding to opportunities to serve!

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From the Pastor (continued)

And take advantage of the many opportunities for personal growth through Bible study and prayer.

You won't want to miss our all-church retreat, coming up on September 13 and 14. We will bless animals/pets on October 4th, and gather with churches in Englewood and Teaneck for World Communion on October 5th. And every Sunday we gather to study, sing, pray and draw closer to God. So may the water of the spirit refresh and enliven our lives as we grow together in faith.

Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Debra Given

HOLIDAY FAIR—NOV. 22

Plan to be there and to help: selling, cooking, baking, making chili and soup. We are also in need of some good baskets for our tricky tray. Please bring them to the church and let Karen Peters (201-592-8413) know they are there. More details to follow.

**Sunday School
September 7th**



Get Ready! We will start a great new year of Church School activities! Register your child and yourself on **Sunday, September 7th at 9:30 a.m.**

You do not need to be a member of the church to register or attend. Invite other families and children who you think might be interested. All students and their parents or guardians are requested to meet in the fireplace room at 9:30. Information about classes will be disseminated at that time. (Important dates: Sept. 14, no Church School in Leonia due to the retreat.)

The Adult Study Group is meeting at 9:30 a.m. beginners Bible Study for adults is after worship service every Sunday!

If you would like to help with the Sunday School, please contact Rev. Given or Jonathan Phillips.

COME, LET US WORSHIP GOD...

Sunday, Sept. 7

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day, will include a Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, Sept. 14, 9:15 Choir Rehearsal

No Church School and Adult Classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day in Leonia and Camp Johnsonburg and celebration of the Lord's Supper at Camp Johnsonburg.

3-5 p.m. Special Ministry to the Japanese Worship Service

Sunday, Sept. 21,

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Church School & Adult classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include commissioning of Church School Staff

Sunday, Sept. 28, 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Church School & Adult Classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

Following Worship: Potluck Lunch for all

October 5 11:00 a.m.

World Communion Sunday at the Presbyterian Church in Teaneck, 1 Church Street, Teaneck.

Come celebrate the diversity of God's family with Presbyterian Churches from Teaneck and Englewood.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Sept. 6 | Luis LaBoy |
| Sept. 8 | Troy Sahai |
| Sept. 18 | Dennis McGarry |
| | Jonathan Mark Phillips |
| Sept. 21 | Michael Sofia |
| Sept. 22 | Ray Addabbo |
| Sept. 23 | Lillian McNaughton |

CHOIR NEWS

The choir is scheduled to begin rehearsing on **Sunday, September 7 at 9:00 a.m. before worship. If you would like to join the choir**, come that day or speak with Renee Guerrero-Harris. Choir rehearses every Sunday at 9:15 and 11:45 a.m.

REMINDER: **NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We have new email addresses, please use the following for:

Debra: pastorleonia@gmail.com
Secretary/Church Office: secretaryleonia@gmail.com

ART SHOW

This September 28, **Michael Sofia** will have his art show. Michael will show several large format photos of irises, roses and lotus among others. These photos are printed on watercolor paper and can be mistaken for paintings. One wall will be devoted to 11x 14 black and white photos of the lower East Side and 42nd Street in Manhattan, New York. These photos are titled "glimpses" and a poem accompanies them. Two jazz photos taken in New Orleans and one photo of a pool reimagined taken in Bermuda completes the show.

Greeting cards will be available, printed with 4x6 photos.

The show will open immediately following worship in the fireplace room

THE PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 8 pm in the North Tower room. Depending on the needs of those present, the meeting may last a ½ hour to 1 hour. You are welcome to bring your own favorite prayer or a picture of a loved one for whom you are offering prayers. We have recently included a litany of healing as a regular feature of our time together. We always play soft background music and light a candle (digital, of course) for inspiration. The following is a sample of a prayer shared in the group.

Lord, my heart is not large enough,
My memory is not good enough,
My will is not strong enough:
Take my memory and give it quicker recall,
Take my will and make it strong,
And make me conscious of thee
Ever present,
Ever accompanying.
George Appleton
Submitted by Barbara Sofia

USHERS FOR THE MONTH

September 7	Jeff Im, Elin Park & Anne Stebbins
September 14	Rae Giannuzzi, Kristen Richter & Irene Ziganto
September 21	Jeannie Choe, Hwan Hee Kang & Ammal Varky
September 28	Suzanne Broffman, Susan Dindial & Karen Peters

OFFERING COUNTERS

September 7	Fumio Ito & David Voreacos
September 14	Ginny Brown & Jonathan Phillips
September 21	Anne Stebbins & Fumio Ito
September 28	Hyung Kune Shim & Pete Shanno

NURSERY CARE

September 7	Kristen Richter
September 14	Elizabeth Even-Ezra
September 21	Lisa/Joe VanDeWeert
September 28	Linda McGarry

TO OUR HELPFUL FRIENDS, THANK YOU

Thank you to **Virginia Cora, Susan Dindial, Debra Given, Jae Lee, Jonathan Lee, Linda McGarry, Mialy Rakotoselson, Dina Razafy, Nancy Salvati, Michael Sofia, Ammal Varky and Irene Ziganto** who either cooked and served dinner or stayed over night at the Family Promise Shelter in Englewood in July.

Thank you to all those who helped at Paterson Habitat for Humanity: **Debra Given, Soyeon Kim, Pete Shanno, Roland Weimer,** and of course **Karen Klingner** who made the arrangements and worked.

We spent the day nailing down flooring in a single family home in the 4th Ward, the same neighborhood where the 12-year old girl was tragically killed just a few weeks prior to our work day. This is Paterson Habitat's 30th Anniversary and they have built over 250 homes for 260 families on the North side of Paterson since they began in October 1984 and hope to continue to build homes, communities and hope for years to come.

Thank you to those who volunteered with us in Guatemala in August: **Suzanne Broffman, Christine Banas and Dahlia and David Levine, Debra Given, Mialy Rakotoselsen, Dina Razafy, Nick Topousis, David Voreacos, Roland and Julius Weimer and Jane Wilson.** They were joined by four other members of CoFiA, plus relatives and friends to total 29 volunteers. We had a great time helping Hug It Forward and the villagers build a three room middle school in the small mountain village of Chidonjuan near San Martin Jilotepeque. We also learned some Guatemalan culture and history, and made many new friends.

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

We need your help with childcare on Sunday mornings. There is a new sign-up sheet for nursery volunteers on the board above the coffee cart. If you have any questions, please speak with Kristen Richter. And we are looking to hire a new child care worker since Jacquie moved in July. If you know someone who is interested/qualified, please let us know!



The Blessing of the Animals will be held at the church on Saturday, October 4th at 4pm. (rain or shine). This event will be officiated by Rev. Debra Given and will take place on the greenery on the side entrance of the church. Refreshments will follow.

Our pets are an invaluable addition to our families. Because they don't yet come to the church worship service, Saturday, October 4 is a special day set aside for them. Don't miss this one time opportunity during the church year to have your loving pet blessed.

For further information please speak with Michael Sofia (201-343-6206) or sfmchl@gmail.com

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless our pets. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

This year's World Communion celebration will be at the Presbyterian Church in Teaneck. The Bethany Presbyterian Church in Englewood will also join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. We will have a joint choir and joint Sunday School classes. You are invited to bring food to share at a reception following worship: more information to come. Our congregation has been working and celebrating with our cluster churches for many years now. Please join us for this festive event, and celebrate our communion with Christians throughout the world.

*We extend our **deepest sympathy** to the family of **Harriette Coleman**, who passed away peacefully on August 10, 2014 at age 96. Many people gathered to celebrate a long and faithful life, well-lived, with a worship service on August 13.*



ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Daytime and Evening Classes

Beginning the Week of September 29

Sponsored by Presbyterian Church in Leonia &
All Saints Episcopal Church in Leonia

**Everyone is welcome,
From Beginner to Intermediate/Advanced!**

- Learn English vocabulary and idioms
 - Practice speaking English
- Find out about American culture
 - Make new friends!

Registration for Fall Semester

WHEN: Thursday, September 18, 2014

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

(For a 2nd class, if space is available)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

WHERE: The Presbyterian Church in Leonia

181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605

(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)



Please contact followings for any question or assistance.

In English; Mark Roger: englishinleonia@gmail.com 201-641-0067

Korean; Hyung Shim: hkshim@gmail.com 917-952-2559

Japanese; Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net 201-679-6616

Spanish; Susan Shanno: susannpete@aol.com 201-944-4603/201-615-7966

Church Office; secretaryleonia@gmail.com 201-944-1358

MATERIALS/ADMINISTRATION FEE:

Classes meeting once a week: \$25.00/semester

2nd class, if space is available: \$5.00/semester

Visit our website: www.learnenglishinleonia.org

September 12th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Fall for Jazz! Happy Harvest!

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 Real Book".

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

WHEN: September 12, 2014 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Open: 7:30 pm
Next Session: October 10, 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@gmail.com or 201-944-1358

Coordinator, Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net or 201-679-6616

Church website: www.leoniapres.org



THE NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM AFAR

Dear, dear Friends, What a delightful and heart-warming gift, your letter to Nell and me! We thank you and send our good wishes for you in the same spirit.

We divide our time between Durhan, NC and Bradenton, FL. We are feeling our age, but sharing the experience with many others like us. I am having to adjust to the fact that I am in the elder-elder category, with my 90th birthday coming in late August. Oh no, I am not the very oldest, we have a few 'hundreds' and quite a few in the nineties. I have spotted about ten of us boys and girls who started school in 1930.... Like yesterday! That was in Johnson City, in upper east Tennessee. Nell started school in Appalachia, VA. In 1937. She moved to Johnson City, when her father a Presbyterian elder, became our resident FBI agent. She was 12 then. Eight years later she and I took our vows in the old downtown, First Presbyterian Church.

We miss you and hope you have a wonderful year. Stan and Nell Barlow

(Happy 90th Birthday, Stan, from your friends in Leonia.)