

THE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

What are you doing to prepare for Easter? This year during Lent our church is offering worship services on Wednesday evenings in the style of Taize. We hope you'll join us.

Taize is a simple quiet way of prayer designed for people of all Christian traditions. The service includes simple chants sung repeatedly, scripture readings, a period of silence, and prayers of praise and intercession.

The Taize community began during World War II when its founder, Brother Roger, arrived in the small town of Taize, France, with a dream of creating a community of peace. He began offering shelter to refugees of the war, especially Jews. Eventually brothers from various Protestant and Catholic backgrounds joined this work and formed a monastic community. Their work eventually evolved into a mission of hospitality and reconciliation for people from all over the world. Today, thousands of guests stay for a

week at a time and share in worship (three times a day), discussion groups, chores and simple meals. Most of the guests are young people seeking God or looking for meaning in their lives.

The Taize community teaches that it is through the heart, in the deepest parts of ourselves, that we begin to grasp the mystery of faith. At our center lies a longing for presence, a desire for communion. This is our desire for God and is the beginning of faith. In worship we nurture and strengthen this desire by supporting one another with our presence and opening our hearts to God in silence and meditation. I hope you will give it a try. Our first service will be on Wednesday evening, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

If you can't make Wednesday evenings, there are other options. We've purchased booklets with daily Lenten meditations and prayers by Henri Nouwen and C.S. Lewis for your personal use at home. You can pick up a copy from the table in the



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUES. -FRI.

entry room. Several people have also decided to read and discuss the book, [No Future Without Forgiveness](#), by Desmond Tutu. This book is about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, which tried to bring healing from the wounds of apartheid.

We will make copies available to any who would like to join them. Please let me know

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HEADLINERS

DEACON'S RE-ORGANIZATION—See Page 3

WHAT COMMITTEE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON?—Pages 5 & 6

JANUARY SESSION MINUTES - See Page 4

JAZZ JAM SESSION, FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 8 P.M. More Information on Page 7

USHERS

- 2/22/15 Suzanne Broffman, Susan Dindial & Karen Peters
- 3/1/15 Esther Jeong, Vicky Li & Fara Razafy
- 3/8/15 Barbara and Michael Sofia & Roberta Toolen
- 3/15/15 Suzanne Broffman, Susan Dindial & Karen Peters
- 3/22/15 Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
- 3/29/15 Jeff Im, Elin Park & Anne Stebbins

OFFERING COUNTERS

- 2/15/15 Jonathan Phillips & Pete Shanno
- 2/22/15 Hyung Shim & Fumio Ito
- 3/1/15 Ginny Brown & Pete Shanno
- 3/8/15 Fumio Ito & David Voreacos
- 3/15/15 Ginny Brown & Jonathan Phillips
- 3/22/15 Fumio Ito & Anne Stebbins
- 3/29/15 Hyung Shim & Pete Shanno

CHILD CARE

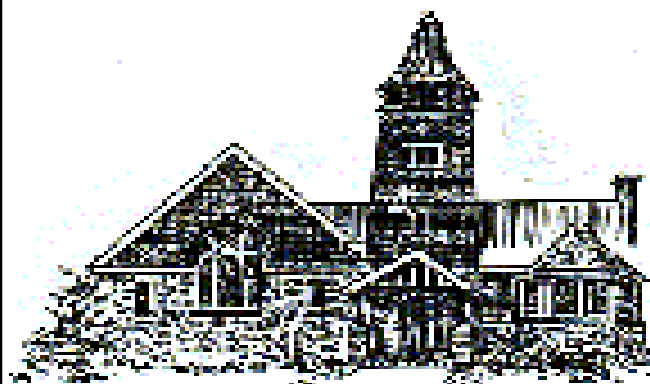
- 2/15/15 Linda McGarry
- 2/22/15 Sarah Han
- 3/1/15 Angie Chung
- 3/8/15 Vicky Li
- 3/15/15 Yukiko Aoki
- 3/22/15 Lisa/Joe VanDeWeert
- 3/29/15 Kristen Richter

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Leiko Okamoto
- 2 Janet Baur
- 9 Betsy Voreacos
- 14 Gretchen Harders
- 20 Maribel Santana
- 21 Anne Stebbins
Jane Wilson
- 23 Molly Voreacos

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Kenneth Dindial
- 10 Lily Grace VanDeWeert
- 14 Daphne Carriel
- 16 Bonnie Callahan
Lisa VanDeWeert
- 27 Darla Addabbo
Susan Dindial
- 29 Jonathan Lee
- 30 Virginia Brown



Sunday, February 15 10:30 a.m.

Transfiguration of the Lord and Take Up Your Cross—Service for the Lord’s Day will include a celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 7 p.m. at Teaneck Presbyterian Church, 1 Church St.

Sunday, February 22 10:30 a.m.

Celebration of the Lunar New Year

Sunday, March 1, 2nd Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord’s Day

Sunday, March 8, 3rd Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord’s Day will include a celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Sunday, March 15, 4th Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord’s Day will include prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, March 22, 5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord’s Day

Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday

10:20 a.m. Assemble for Procession
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord’s Day

Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunrise Service
in Overpeck Park

10:30 a.m. Worship and Communion

FROM THE PASTOR (continued from Page 1)

if you would like a copy. We are also ordering a 4 part DVD lecture series by Bishop John Shelby Spong called Jesus for the Non-Religious and will set up a time to show these and discuss. I hope you will take advantage of some of these opportunities to deepen your faith in this season of Lent.

May we draw closer to God and prepare our hearts to receive the joyous message of Easter.

Blessings on your journey,
Debra Given

DEACON'S RE-ORGANIZATION FOR 2015

The **Board of Deacons** held its reorganization meeting on January 28. They elected Vicky Li to serve as **Moderator** for the year 2015, Laura Collins to serve as Secretary, Susan Dindial as the Representative to the Nominating Committee, Linda McGarry as the Memorial Service Coordinator and Maryellen Neu to serve as Food Coordinator. They also reviewed Deacon's policies and procedures and made new "Flock" assignments.

REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To all committee chairs, please call or email (201-944-1358 or secretaryleonia@gmail.com) the church office with the names of the people on your committee as soon as possible. It is also important that you call or email the church office with meeting dates, and any planned activities or special events. We would like to keep the church calendar as current as possible.

To those who have not signed up for a committee and would like to, please speak to the chair of the committee or call the church office and we will let the chair know. Thank you, Michele

LET'S GET INVOLVED! HAVE YOU JOINED A COMMITTEE?

The committees and chairs are listed below. If you would like to be on a committee, and have not signed up, (see page 5 & 6 of the Newsletter) please contact the chair, I'm sure they will be pleased to hear from you:

Asian Ministry	Fumio Ito
Budget & Finance	David Voreacos
Christian Education	Susanne Broffman & Jonathan Phillips
Endowment	David Voreacos
Fellowship/Holiday Fair	Karen Peters
Membership & Outreach	Jane Wilson
Mission & Stewardship	Susan Shanno
Oelhaf House	Pete Shanno
Personnel	Leah Puzzo
Property	Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
Retreat	Michael Sofia & Pete Shanno
Worship	Michael Sofia

CORRECTION IN DIRECTORY

Ester Jeong's address should read 1055 River Road, **TH IIS**, Edgewater 07020
Barriectos, Ernesto & Ninoska, Gutierrez, 2017 Hudson Terrace, **Apt. 4H**, Fort Lee 07024

Can't find your church calendar, can't remember when the potluck dinner is?

Well fret no more, you can always log onto the website at www.leoniapres.org and find all the information at your fingertips. The website has all the latest information about our church, i.e. events, worship schedule, newsletter, monthly calendar, and much more. We also post audio and print versions of the Sunday sermons. If there is anything you would like to see on our website please let us know. Happy browsing. (And a great big thank you to Hyung Kune Shim for keeping it up-to-date and filled with ready-to-use information.)

*If you have not signed up for **CHANCEL FLOWERS** for a specific Sunday, please do so by signing up on the Flower Calendar which is on the wall above the coffee cart in the Entry Room.*



You will be contacted before your chosen date about what you would like printed in the weekly bulletin. If you live out of town and would like to donate flowers for a loved one, anniversary, birthday or an other special occasion, please call Jane Wilson (201-947-1688) or the church office (201-944-1358). The cost is \$40 and we ask that you pay the Leonia Presbyterian Church when you sign up. The church will send a check to the florist at the end of each month. You may take your flowers home after the service, or if you choose, the deacons will distribute the flowers to members and friends of the congregation who are sick or unable to

come to the worship service.

Highlights from the January 2015 Session Meeting

The session discussed responsibilities and elected officers and committee chairs.

Elder Voreacos reported that the 2014 budget report showed total income for the year was \$248,686.83 and expenses were \$245,058.65, for a total contribution to the operating reserve of \$3,628.18, compared to a projected deficit of \$25,795. Some highlights on the income side were: pledges exceeded the budgeted amount by \$12,135.89; gifts exceeded the budgeted amount by \$10,201; and plate offerings were \$2,496 more than the budget. Spending on maintenance and repairs also was \$2,986.44 less than anticipated.

Session VOTED and APPROVED appointing Anne Stebbins, Maurice Lovell, Peter Shanno and Hiroshi Muto to the Endowment Committee. Elder Voreacos reported that the \$500,000 bequest from the Marie Balsara estate has been transferred to the Vanguard FTSE Social Index Fund.

Elder S. Shanno reported that of the \$740 Peacemaking offering, 75 percent went to the denomination and 25 percent to the Center for Care & Hope (SOS). \$85 was collected from the Thanksgiving Offering and sent to the Center for Food Action. The Christmas Offering of \$924 was split between the denomination's Christmas Joy Offering and the Englewood Hospital Chaplaincy Fund. The Alternative Christmas List raised \$3,105, including \$890 for Center for Food Action, \$535 for Oelhaf House, \$370 for CoFIA, \$620 for Loaves & Fishes, \$490 for Camp Johnsonburg and \$200 for designated youth programs. The congregation also gave gifts to residents of the Oelhaf House.

Continued on Page 8

NAME, TELEPHONE AND EMAIL

MY COMMITMENT FOR 2015

As a good steward of all of God's gifts, I commit or recommit myself to serve in the following area (s) of the church's life and mission (please indicate areas in which you wish to continue to serve, or would like to begin serving):

Worship

Choir
Special Music
Usher
Read Scripture

Church School and Child Care

Christian Education (Teach Church School/Adult Education)
Sunday Morning Nursery Volunteer
Elementary childcare during Sunday service
Child care for special events

Mission Outreach

Teach English Conversation Classes
Help with Registration for English Classes
Help at Family Promise Shelter
Loaves & Fishes-Prepare meals every other Monday
Oelhaf House Interfaith Committee
Habitat for Humanity summer building project
Community of Friends in Action (CoFiA) outreach to Day Laborers
 Monday Lunch Program
 Wage Theft Committee
 First Thursdays Committee/planning meetings
Drive members to hospital or doctor appointments
Transportation to church
Other _____

Odd Jobs

Painting
Minor Building Repairs
Yard Work
Other _____

Miscellaneous

Retreat Planning
Serve as a "Prayer Partner" for one of our committees

Committee Membership

Committee members are not only welcome, but needed to do the vital work of the church. Please indicate which of these committees you would be willing to serve on. Experience is NOT required, merely an interest and a willing spirit.

Asian Ministry – *Fumio Ito* – Develops outreach to our Asian neighbors and plans programs to foster appreciation and understanding between people of different cultures. Asian Ministry runs our English Conversation program and oversees the Jazz Jam.

Budget & Finance – *David Voreacos* - Recommends the annual church budget and, along with the Treasurer monitors income and disbursements throughout the year. They are also responsible for long-range financial planning.

Christian Education – *Suzanne Broffman* - Oversees the Sunday Church School and nursery; recruits and trains Church School teachers; recommends curriculum; helps provide for adult education and any special events for families.

Fellowship – *Karen Peters* - Plans social events, fellowship hours, and maintains the Sunday beverage cart.

Membership & Outreach – *Jane Wilson* - Evaluates our church's communication, both within the congregation and to the wider community. Proposes, plans and executes various efforts to welcome and incorporate new members.

Mission & Stewardship – *Susan Shanno* - Plans and conducts programs for the financial stewardship (including special offerings) of the congregation, and interprets and promotes our mission locally and worldwide.

Personnel – *Leah Puzzo* - Oversees the work of church employees, conducts annual performance reviews, and makes compensation recommendations to the session.

Property – *Jack Peters, Pete Shanno & Tom Topousis* - Oversees the regular maintenance of the church building and grounds; proposes and implements improvement projects.

Retreat – *Michael Sofia and Pete Shanno* - Plans and implements one-day or overnight retreats of the congregation.

Worship – *Michael Sofia* - Conceives and plans special services of worship, provides for services in the Pastor's absence and for routine tasks, such as communion preparation, reading of Scripture, ushering, and preparation of the sanctuary for worship and special services.

**Please either put in the collection plate or send to the church office.
Thank you.**

March 13th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Spon-

sored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Spring is on the corner!

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: March 13, 2015 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: April 10, 2015 (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)

April Johnson (Keyboard)

Achako Aritomo (Flute)

Shai Rodriguez (Drums)

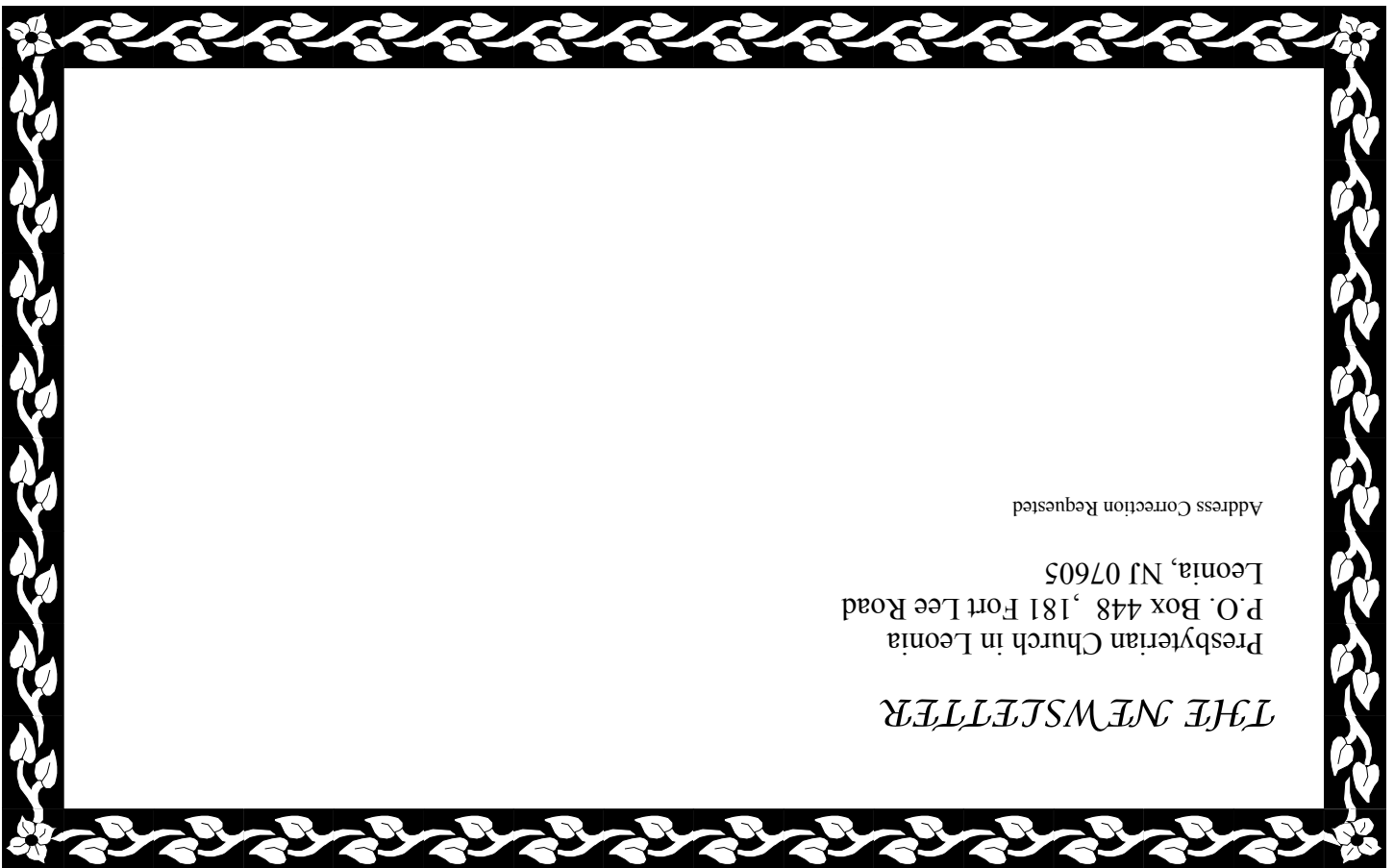
Mike Ito (Guitar)

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

Session Meeting Minutes (continued)

Elder Shanno said the final pledge amount for 2015 is \$157,503, compared to \$146,680 in 2014. The list for 2015 included 50 pledging units, with 20 the same pledge as last year, 15 that increased their commitment, seven that decreased, and eight that were new.

Elder J. Peters reported on the property committee's goals for the coming year. Elder P. Shanno reported extensive steam leaks in the pipes serving the Educational Wing boiler system. The church's HVAC contractor, Glen Anderson, recommended that the church abandon the boiler system and convert the entire wing to a new heating system. Anderson will give an estimate for performing that job after the end of the heating season. Elder Topousis reported that Greenfaith is preparing to do an overall energy audit for our church. The committee also hopes to clean out the basement, the robing room and the nearby hallway.