

THE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

FROM THE PASTOR

What kinds of things do you do to put your faith into practice during the week? Does the way you live reflect what you say you believe?

This year during Lent I'd like us to look for ways to deepen our relationship with God by exploring different practices of faith. A practice of faith is something we do on a regular basis to draw us closer to our identity as God's children. You may be practicing your faith in more ways than you think. The most obvious practice of faith is prayer. Can you think of any more?

I suggest we read a book together called "Practicing Our Faith; A Way of Life for a Searching People," edited by Dorothy Bass. The book addresses twelve different practices: honoring the body, hospitality, household economics (how we use

our money), saying "yes" and saying "no," keeping Sabbath, testimony, community, forgiveness, healing, dying well, and singing. Each chapter focuses on a different practice and helps us reflect and become aware of these different ways we might live out our faith.

Since there are only six weeks in Lent (beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5th), you might choose five or six chapters that interest you to read and discuss each week. Or you may decide to read the chapters in order, and those who would like to continue reading and discussing after Easter may do so. As we have done in previous years, some people may simply want to read on their own, others may want to meet with a partner once a week to discuss a chapter, and still others may want to meet with me in a larger group. If we come up with a reading plan as a group, we might consider



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUES. -FRI.

devoting each Sunday worship service to one of the practices.

There is a lot more to a life of faith than going to church, reading the Bible and praying. As a congregation, we need to explore the many different aspects of faith, and encourage each other to put them into practice. I hope you will join me.

Blessings in Christ
Debra Given

HEADLINERS

DEACON'S RE-ORGANIZATION—See Page 3

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

"HUG IT FORWARD"—Page 3

"THE UGANDANS ARE GONE!" - See Page 7

OFFERING COUNTERS

February 2 – Olivia Taylor & Hyung Kune Shim
February 9 – Ginny Brown & Pete Shanno
February 16 – Jonathan Phillips & Fumio Ito
February 23 – Anne Stebbins & Hyung Kune Shim

USHERS FOR THE MONTH

February 2 – Fara Razafy, Vicky Li & Lisa VanDeWeert
February 9 – Michael and Barbara Sofia & Roberta Toolen
February 16 – Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
February 23 – Jeff Im, Elin Park & Anne Stebbins

CHILD CARE

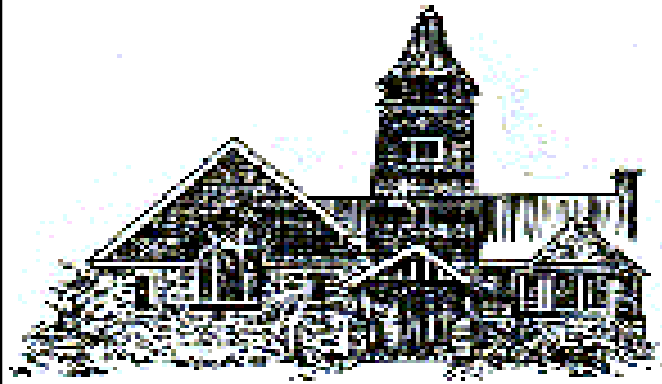
There is a list for nursery volunteers for January through June. ***We need volunteers to sign up!*** The list is on the bulletin board above the coffee cart.

February 2	Kazuko Abe
February 9	Kristen Richter

Our Deepest Sympathy

To the family of Pamela Lovell, who died January 30. Pamela died peacefully in hospice care. She was the wife of Maurice Lovell and a longtime member of the Leonia Presbyterian Church.

And to the family of Harriette Townsend and Ruth Ellen Townsend who died in a house fire on January 30. Harriette and Ruth were the daughter and grand-daughter of Harriette Coleman, and sister and niece of Howard, Gordon and George Coleman.



Sunday, February 2, 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include a Celebration of the Lunar New Year

Sunday, February 9 10:30 a.m. Family worship service will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper. A luncheon and Annual Meeting will follow.

3-5 p.m. Japanese Language Worship Service

Sunday, February 16 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, February 23 10:30AM
Service for the Lord's Day



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2 Janet Baur
- 8 Betsy Voreacos
- 14 Gretchen Harders
- 20 Maribel Santana
- 21 Anne Stebbins
Jane Wilson
- 23 Molly Voreacos

DEACON'S RE-ORGANIZATION FOR 2014

The **Board of Deacons** held its reorganization meeting on January 16. They elected Vicky Li to serve as **Moderator** for the year 2014, Jennifer Carriel to serve as Secretary, Linda McGarry as the Representative to the Nominating Committee and the Memorial Service Coordinator and Jonathan Lee to serve as Food Coordinator. They also reviewed Deacon's policies and procedures and made new "Flock" assignments. Plan to "Meet Your Deacon" at the luncheon on February 9 during the Annual Meeting.

HUG IT FORWARD

As you know, five of us traveled to Guatemala last summer, a "voluntourism" trip to help build bottle schools with the organization "Hug It Forward." We all felt it was a wonderful experience and would like more people to share it. So we are organizing another trip this summer from **August 14-20**.

Would you consider coming with us? The cost is \$1,195 and does not include airfare or travel insurance. We will make our own air plans to and from Guatemala. The Mission and Stewardship Committee has made some scholarship money available, so that people who might not normally consider coming, might be able to come. Here is the web site for our trip -if you scroll to the bottom there are instructions for how to pay. <http://servetheworldtoday.com/suzanneanddebra/>

We will need a non-refundable deposit of \$595 by **April 14**. The final payment of \$600 will be due **June 14** (2 months before the trip). If you are thinking about coming, please speak with Suzanne Broffman or Debra. If you have any questions about the trip, Suzanne, Debra, Pete Shanno, Vicky Li and Christine Banas all attended last year.

Accommodations are in a "hotel" and accommodations, food, all travel within Guatemala, etc... is included, except for personal purchases and tips for our guides and bus driver.

You can also check out the organizations that run the trip on line.

www.hugitforward.com and www.servetheworldtoday.com As well as the face book page for hugitforward www.facebook.com/hugitforwardfans

We hope to hear from you!
Suzanne and Debra

KOREAN MOVIE NIGHT – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 7:30 P.M.

Title: Joint Security Area

Release year: 2000

Length: 111 minutes

Joint Security Area is a South Korean mystery thriller film. This movie is about a United Nations' special investigation into a fatal shooting incident within the demilitarized zone, the heavily fortified border that separates North and South Korea. There will be English subtitles. The trailer will be available on the church website.

The movie will be shown at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7 pm). Korean refreshments will be served along with the usual - popcorn & coffee.

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	Jonathan Phillips & Susanne Broffman
Endowment	David Voreacos
Fellowship/Holiday Fair	Karen Peters
Membership & Outreach	Joyce Hamlin & Michael Sofia
Mission & Stewardship	Susan Shanno
Personnel	Leah Puzzo
Property	Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
Retreat	Joyce Hamlin
Worship	Jane Wilson & Michael Sofia

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.

The Ugandans are Gone! (Continued from Page 7)

They didn't come for fame or fortune. They didn't come for jewels and jeans. They simply came to shed their light and share their spirit.

They left our little church in Leonia this morning in a flurry of hugs and tears. As we stood outside in the frigid air, waving goodbye to our newfound friends, I found myself humming, "We are grateful, we are grateful, we are grateful for all you did for us."

This week, we gave the best of ourselves to each other, leaving us all better people than we were before.

And isn't that the best gift of all?

NAME, TELEPHONE AND EMAIL

MY COMMITMENT FOR 2014

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

- Chancel 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 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
- Drive members to hospital or doctor appointments
- Transportation to church
- Other _____

Odd Jobs

- Newsletter Collating
- Painting
- Minor Building Repairs
- Yard Work
- Other _____

Miscellaneous

- Retreat Planning
- Cluster Event 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.

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

_____ **Christian Education – *Jonathan Phillips & Suzanne Broffman*** - Oversees the Sunday Church School and nursery; recruits and trains Church School teachers; recommends curriculum; helps provide for adult education.

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

_____ **Membership & Outreach – *Joyce Hamlin*** - 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 & Tom Topousis*** - Oversees the regular maintenance of the church building and grounds; proposes and implements improvement projects.

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

_____ **Worship – *Jane Wilson*** - Conceives and plans special services of worship, providing 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.**

The Ugandans are Gone!

By: Betsy Voreacos

“No, Mom, sit down. I will cook the dinner.”

“Today, I wash the dishes.”

“How can we help you?”

Music to a mother’s ears, those words. But alas, they were but fleeting phrases, for they came from the mouths of the Children of Uganda, who danced in and out of our lives this week.

They arrived in the middle of a blizzard with flimsy shoes, ragged gloves and happy hearts. They were 11 days into their two-month cross-country *Tour of Light* (touroflight.blogspot.com) and were greeted with record-breaking temperatures that their equator-born bones had never known.

They came with drums and xylophones, costumes and courage. They told their tales of pain and poverty with dimpled smiles and thankful souls. They had so little and gave so much.

Our family was blessed with housing four 15-21 year-old boys; Julius, Karim, Rogers and Vincent. They fell in love with our dog, Griffey, and we fell in love with them. As they politely picked at my prized beef stew, they told us of their meals of maize and beans. The next day they cooked – teaching me how to make authentic rice and beans and demonstrating the delicious difference between my dried-up fried eggs and theirs, which were cooked with care in a pan of oil. As my son, Leo, waltzed in and out of the house during mid-terms week, they talked about their nine-and-a-half hour school days. When I apologized that they had to get up at 8 am, they shrugged it off, explaining that in Uganda they woke up at 5 am and went to bed at midnight.

They loved the iPad and we had to charge it at least once a day. A couple of them had Facebook accounts and e-mail addresses, but little access to computers at home. They got hooked on Netflix and were surprised when the movie they were watching was really a television series that went on and on and on.

They made their beds every morning, called us Mom and Dad and hung out with Leo and his buddies in the basement. They protested me doing their laundry until they realized I wasn’t hand-washing and that all I had to do was push a button. When I took the four boys to Target and bought them all boots, you would have thought I had handed them keys to a Porsche.

We got and gave multiple hugs a day.

On Wednesday, the Children of Uganda and their host families were treated to a pizza lunch at Dante’s Restaurant in Leonia (dantesplace.com). At the end of the meal, the children stood up and broke into song:

*We are grateful,
we are grateful,
we are grateful
for all you do for us.*

The restaurant went silent as we choked back tears.

All that gratitude motivated me to want to do more. I wanted to adopt them all and make sure every last one of them got to college. I wanted to buy them cell phones and Nikes and laptops. Until I saw them perform.

Now, I have seen my own children perform thousands of times. Ice hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, football, cheerleading – I have sat in the stands with bated breath. I’ve seen them score, I’ve seen them soar. I’ve seen them earn awards and accolades, win competitions and championships. But, I’ve never seen a one of them perform with the pure passion and joy that the Children of Uganda brought to the stage.

Leo, my child of few words, said it best, “They are better people than we are.”

(Continued on Page 4)



Address Correction Requested

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REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To all committee chairs, please call or email (201-944-1358 or secretaryleoniam@yahoo.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 Ring

ANNUAL REPORTS AND DIRECTORIES

If you have not picked up the 2014 Annual Report or your 2014 church directory, please do so. They are located in the Entry Room. Please take one per family. If you need additional copies, please call the church office 201-944-1358.

Thank you, Michele Ring