

# THE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

## FROM THE PASTOR

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, March 5, with an Ash Wednesday service at our church.

Smudging your forehead with ashes may seem like a strange ritual, especially for those who were raised Protestant, or with no religion at all. But even if ashes at the beginning of Lent is an regular part of your religious observance, you have probably had someone sometime (who is not familiar with this custom) look at you funny, and point out that you have something on your forehead that needs to be washed off. Still, Christians have been observing this ritual since before the Protestant Reformation, and lately more and more Protestants and evangelicals have been returning to the practice as well.

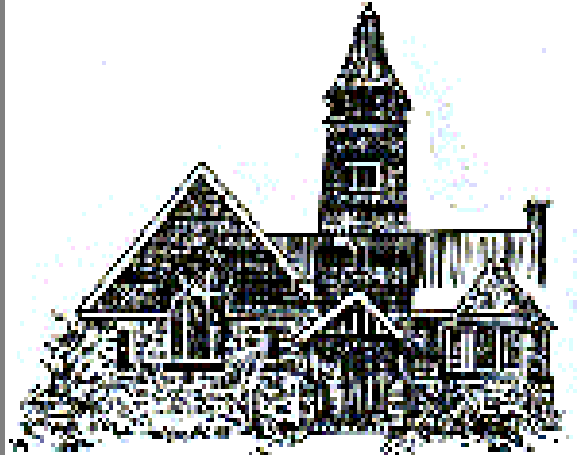
In Old Testament times people would wear sackcloth and cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance. In the book of Jonah, the king of Nineveh took off his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes, and called on his people to do the same, as a sign of "turning from their evil ways." (Jonah 3:6-

9). And even Jesus referred to ashes as a sign of repentance (Matt. 11:21).

But it wasn't until the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century that the imposition of ashes became a yearly ritual for all believers, a reminder of our own mortality and sinfulness at the beginning of Lent. It is an optional rite, just as celebrating Christmas and Easter are not in the Bible and therefore not required. Still, many Christians find it is a helpful way to prepare ourselves to observe the holiest events in the life of the church: the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday is a time for all of us to acknowledge our frailty and sin. We can stop trying to be something better than we actually are, and admit our flaws and failures before God. This is something we share with everyone present in the sanctuary. We are united in our sin and separation from God.

Ash Wednesday is also a time to face our mortality and remember that we too will die. During the service, those who wish may come forward and receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads. The person



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA**  
**181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. Box 448**  
**LEONIA, NJ 07605**  
**TEL. 201 944-1358**  
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**WEBSITE WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRI.**  
**9:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.**

imposing the ashes will say, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is not meant to be morbid or depressing. It's simply a reminder of reality, and a challenge to make the most of our lives. When we remember that life on earth doesn't last forever, we can be grateful for the life we have now, and find new energy to live.

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## HEADLINERS

**REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS** - Information on page 2

**EASTER FLOWERS** See page 3

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** Information on page 4

**HARRIS/GUERRERO FAMILY CONCERT ON MARCH 16 AT 4 P.M.** Flier enclosed

From the Pastor (continued)

We have the courage to face our sin and mortality because of Easter, because we believe there is more to life than failure and death. Christians embrace the promise of forgiveness and new life through Christ. And we rest in the assurance that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord," not even death. (Romans 8:38-39)

#### A Prayer for Lent

God of compassion, through Jesus Christ you reconciled all people to yourself. Help us to turn our hearts and minds back to you. May our worship and prayer and penitence bring us closer to you, and increase our love for neighbors. Fill our spirits with the will and the generosity to give of our ourselves, in the spirit of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

God's blessings,  
Debra Given

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



<b>MARCH</b>	
4	Kenneth Dindial
10	Lillian Grace VanDeWeert
14	Daphne Carriel
16	Bonnie Callahan Lisa VanDeWeert
27	Darla Addabbo Susan Dindlal
29	Jonathan Lee
30	Virginia Brown

## *COME, LET US WORSHIP GOD*

**Sunday, March 2— Transfiguration of the Lord**  
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

**Wednesday, March 5—Ash Wednesday**  
7:30 p.m. Leonia Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, March 9— 1st Sunday in Lent,**  
10:30 a.m. Take up your Cross Sunday

**Sunday, March 16—2nd Sunday in Lent,**  
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include a Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Sunday, March 23—3rd Sunday in Lent**  
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

**Sunday, March 30—4th Sunday in Lent**  
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

### OFFERING COUNTERS FOR MARCH

March 2	Olivia Taylor & Fumio Ito
March 9	Ginny Brown & Jonathan Phillips
March 16	Pete Shanno & Anne Stebbins
March 23	Fumio Ito & Olivia Taylor
March 30	Jonathan Phillips & Ginny Brown

### USHERS FOR THE MONTH

March 2	Rae Giannuzzi, Kristen Richter & Irene Ziganto
March 9	Jeannie Choe, Hwan Hee Kang & Ammal Varky
March 17	Suzanne Broffman, Susan Dindial & Karen Peters
March 23	Vicky Li, Fara Razafy & Lisa VanDeWeert
March 30	Barbara & Michael Sofia & Roberta Toolen

## REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**To all committee chairs,** please call or email (201-944-1358 or [secretaryleonias@yahoo.com](mailto:secretaryleonias@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

## LENTEN STUDY

This year's Lenten Study starts today. We will read, pray and discuss our thoughts and experiences using the book Practicing Our Faith, edited by Dorothy Bass. The book addresses twelve different ways we express our faith: honoring the body, hospitality, managing a household, saying "yes" and saying "no," keeping Sabbath, testimony, community, forgiveness, healing, dying well, and singing. Each chapter focuses on a different practice.

The church has 40 copies of the book, and there may be a few left if you haven't signed up yet. If you want a copy of the book, please let us know right away.

We encourage you to read with a partner, or in a group. There are six weeks in Lent, so you can decide with your partner or group how much of the book you want to cover, and which chapters. And then talk about what issues the reading raised for you. What questions do you have? What do you need to work on? Where do you see God at work? We hope you will join us!

## CAMP JOHNSONBURG

Summer 2014 **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, is now accepting registrations for their 2014 summer program. We have programs ranging from one night to two weeks for campers 1st—12th grades. For a full look at their offerings for this summer, please visit <http://www.campjburg.org/summer/> or take a brochure from the entry room. A typical day at camp includes Bible Study and other activities such as swimming, boating, arts and crafts, hiking, games, a trip to our ropes course, and/or archery.

**Summer Job or Volunteer Opportunities at Camp Johnsonburg— to apply or for more information visit the website or call the office at 908-852-2349.**

**Open Houses—Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Come visit our site in northwestern New Jersey.

### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH**

3/2 -- Kazuko Abe  
3/9 -- Kristen Richter

We need your help, so please volunteer your time if you are able. A new volunteer sheet will be posted for April, May and June, please sign up. Thank you!



Help us **decorate the church sanctuary for Easter** by ordering **FLOWERS**. The cost will be \$20 for lilies and \$12 for bulb plants, which could be hyacinths, tulips or daffodils depending on what is available at the time of purchase. Please call the church office (201-944-1358) no later than Friday, April 4. Checks should be made out to the Presbyterian Church in

Leonia and designated for "Easter Flowers." Please let us know whom you would like them dedicated to and if you wish to pick up your plants or distribute to homebound friends.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!**

**Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**Spring is around the corner!**

**Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!**

**\* To Player: Bring instruments and tune from "The Real Book".**

**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 14, 2014 (Friday)**  
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Open: 7:30 pm  
Next Session: April 11, 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](http://www.leoniapres.org)**





LAWRENCE  
*Baritone*  
HARRIS

&

RENÉE  
*Pianist*  
GUERRERO  
in Concert



with  
SYDNEY & QUINTIN HARRIS

*Works by Francesco Tosti, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Irving Berlin and more.*

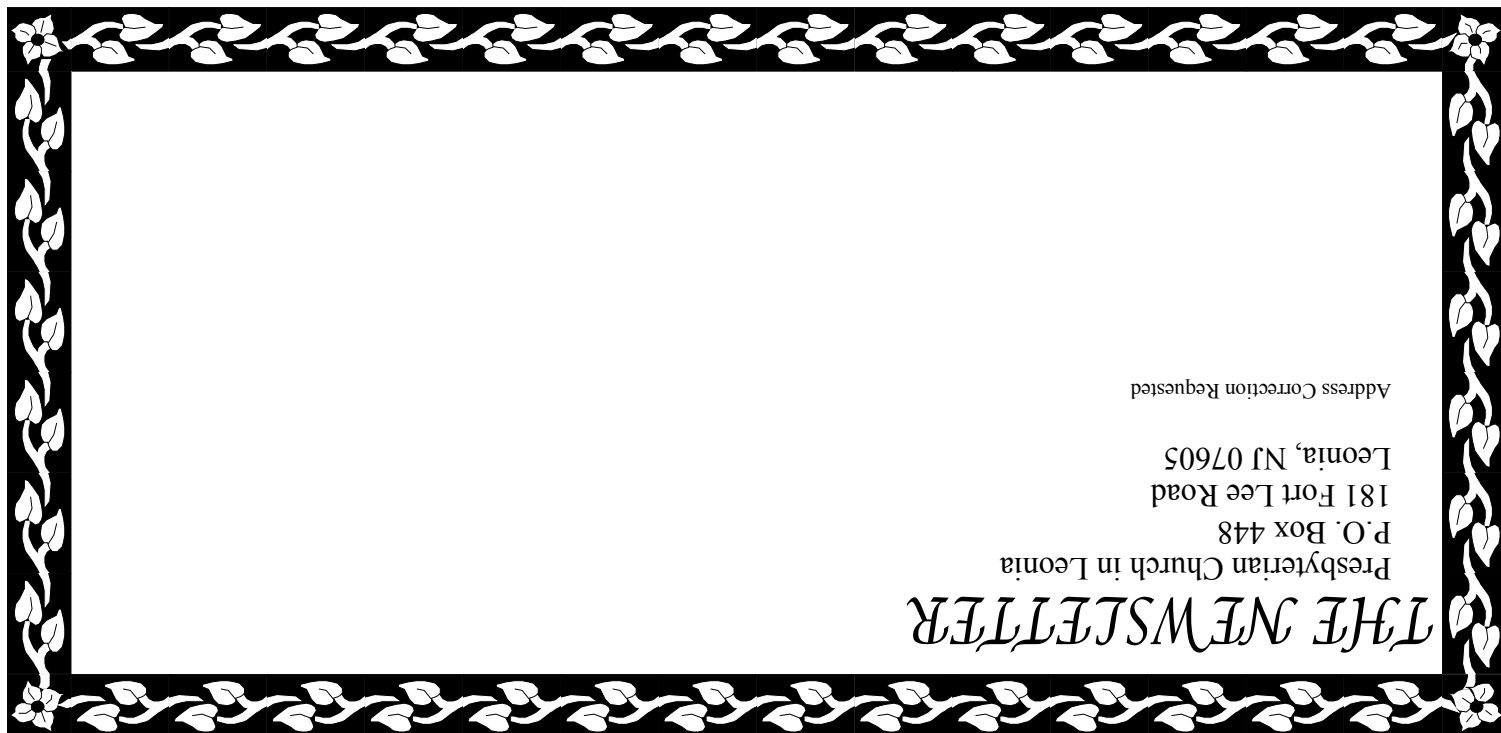
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on  
SUNDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>  
at  
4:00<sup>PM</sup>

LOCATION: *The Presbyterian Church in Leonia*  
*181 Fort Lee Road, Leonia 07605*

*Donation requested.*

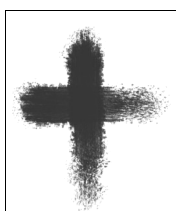




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## THE NEWSLETTER

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**Ash Wednesday Service** – We are hosting an Ash Wednesday Service this Wednesday evening, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of 40 days, not counting Sundays, to prepare for Easter. The Rev. Richard Hong of the First Presbyterian Church, Englewood, will give a brief meditation. Those who wish can receive the mark of ashes and we will join together in communion. We will be joined by members of First Presbyterian Church in Englewood and the United Methodist Church in Leonia. Please come and begin the season of Lent in worship.

### A Prayer for Migrants

Merciful and loving God, you provided for your people Israel in their exodus from slavery a promised land, that you established for them, and in Jesus Christ you provided welcome refuge for all in need. We ask for your divine protection for all migrants who have left their homes in search of new opportunity in another land. For refugees who are forced from their homes due to threats of violence, we beseech you to provide them a safe haven. For migrants trafficked into slavery, grant them rescue, healing, and the strength to start again. For immigrants who so often leave their family and friends behind, grant them a better life and greater opportunity elsewhere. We pray in particular for your protection over migrant children who are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse in the hands of others. We implore you to grant all migrants your protection and lead them to a place of safety. Be with all those in need with your power to save. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.