

THE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! Or should I say, "Happy *secular* New Year?" Our *liturgical* New Year began right after Thanksgiving in the season of Advent, as we prepared for Jesus' birth. In February we will mark the *Lunar* New Year, to celebrate the cultural traditions of some of our Asian members. And many of our children and families think of the New Year as starting in September. We have a lot of choices if we want to make a new start. Actually, we get a new start every week in our Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon, when we turn from sin and then declare, "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun..." We can start over every time we turn to God in repentance.

Still, there is a sense in which January is a new start for us at church. This month we will elect and install new officers and they will begin their responsibilities, deciding who

will do what in the next year. And January 1 is the beginning of a new budget year. We are compiling the financial results for 2014, and thanks to some unexpected generosity, it looks like we may come close to breaking even for 2014, which is great news!

Our first Sunday in January is Epiphany, when we read the story of the Magi or Wise Men coming to worship Jesus. The magi came from afar and were not the same religion as Jesus' family. They were Gentile astrologers, people from the east who studied the stars. The word "magician" comes from the word "magi," and magicians were condemned in the Jewish faith. They were considered to be idolatrous star-gazing foreigners, from another race, religion and culture, and not exactly likely candidates to be part of the Christmas story.

But these magi were seekers and they had something to offer beyond their gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. BOX 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358
FAX. 201 944-6812
Website: ww.secretaryleoniam@gmail.com

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

They had noticed an unusual star, which they took to be a sign in the heavens from God. So they began a search. They were not quite sure where they were going, but they were willing to get up and go. And they saw something the religious leaders missed.

(Continued Page 2)

HEADLINERS

JAZZ JAM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 COME JOIN US! See page 6

WHAT IS PER CAPITA? The answer is on page 3

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE, See page 5

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, February 8 in the Fireplace Room—A luncheon will precede the business meeting. Annual Reports will be available February 1.

From the Pastor (continued)

The magi were not the types to worship in the temple. But they were in the right place at the right time to see and recognize an act of God. The religious leaders in Jerusalem were too settled and set in their ways to look for anything. But the mobile magi saw what God was doing and joined in.

God is not the property of only one religion. God speaks, not just in the places people of faith would expect, such as the temple, or the church today. In the story God spoke through the stars, something that had meaning for the magi. And God speaks to people who are not part of a church today, through things that have meaning for them, be it music, nature, political events, or other religious practices. And some of these people have wisdom to share with us.

We also have something to offer them. The magi were on the move, experiencing a revelation from God. But they were not sure where they were going, or what they were looking for. They needed guidance and direction. If the scribes hadn't shared the wisdom of scripture, their journey may have ended with Herod, and they never would have seen the Christ. And today our Christian faith can provide truth and guidance to people who seek God outside the church. We need to share what we know and experience with people outside our faith community.

Our faith is both a challenge to live fully and a comfort in times of need. It offers forgiveness, wisdom, joy and life. But people don't necessarily know this unless someone shows them. As we begin this *secular* New Year, may we pay attention to the signs of God's presence and work around us, and join in. And may we share our faith with people outside of our faith community, that we may all walk in the light of God.

Peace and Blessings,

Debra Given



Sunday, January 11—Baptism of the Lord
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Rev. John Stanger of PARITY will preach
After Worship: Rev. Stanger will have a question & answer period.

Sunday, January 18
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include the installation of Officers & Deacons

Sunday, January 25
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include the reception of new members.

Sunday, February 1
10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day
Souper Bowl of Caring

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. 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 our webmaster Hyung Kune Shim for keeping it up-to-date and filled with ready-to-use ? information.)

What is Per Capita?

Each year Presbyterian churches pay a certain amount of money to the higher governing bodies, calculated by the previous year's membership statistics. We are charged per member on our active member roll. This is a way of establishing a minimum level of support from the local churches for the salaries and administrative costs of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, and allows these governing bodies to plan their budget from year to year. This year we are being charged \$36.35 per member which comes out to a total of \$ 4,180 for 2015. **If you are a member of the church, please use the blue envelope in the front of your 2015 envelope box or mark your check per capita.** You can put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

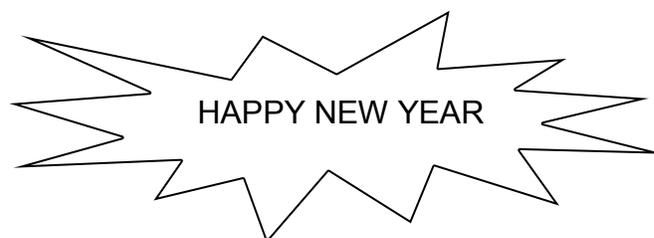
THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you to all who assisted in making the 2014 Holiday Fair a success beyond our expectations!

Because of your hard work and generosity, this major church fundraiser raised \$3,710 before any expenses were deducted. In whatever capacity you helped please know it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again!

Karen Peters
Holiday Fair Committee



*If you would like to sign up for **Chancel Flowers** for a specific Sunday, please do so by signing up on the Flower Calendar in the Entry Room. If you live out of town and would like to donate flowers for a loved one, anniversary, birthday or any other special occasion, please call Jane Wilson (201-947-1688) or the church office (201-944-1358)*

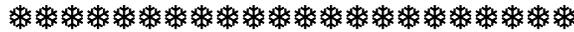
A COPY OF THE DIRECTORY WILL BE TAPED ON THE 'ARK' IN THE ENTRY ROOM. WOULD EVERYONE PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL, AND MAKE ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS, IF NEEDED. THANK YOU.

THE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT AND DIRECTORY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP February 1. THEY WILL BE LOCATED IN THE ENTRY ROOM. PLEASE TAKE ONE COPY PER FAMILY. IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL COPIES, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 201-944-1358.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- January 2 Walter Klingner
- January 3 Beverly Boyle
- January 6 Maurice Lovell
- January 10 Abbie Lee
- January 14 Molly Callahan
- January 15 Fumio Ito
- January 17 Hiroshi Muto
- January 18 Tom Phillips
- January 22 Ron Sahai
- Chris Choe
- January 25 Rayna Marie Addabbo
- Darlayne Ann Addabbo
- Jeannie Choe
- Linda McGarry
- January 26 Maryellen Neu
- January 31 Leah Puzzo



USHERS FOR THE MONTH

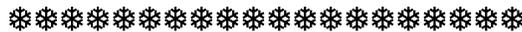
- January 11 – Vicky Li, Fara Razafy & Lisa VanDeWeert
- January 18 - Barbara & Michael Sofia and Roberta Toolen
- January 25 - Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis

OFFERING COUNTERS

- January 4 Ginny Brown & David Voreacos
- January 11 Fumio Ito & Olivia Taylor
- January 18 Ann Stebbins & Pete Shanno
- January 25 Hyung Shim & Jonathan Phillips

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

- January 4 Angie Chung
- January 11 Sarah Han
- January 18 Vicky Li
- January 23 Yukiko Aoki



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS A HELPING HAND!

Loaves & fishes is a mission of Palisades Presbytery and of the Cluster Churches of Englewood, Leonia & Teaneck. Two volunteer teams from these churches prepare a weekly soup kitchen, lunch time on Mondays at the Bethany Presbyterian Church of Englewood. We are now preparing food for 50 people per week. We'd love your support! You can bring food donations to our church and put them in the basket in the front of the sanctuary.

We need:

Canned chicken and beef broth (low salt), whole tomatoes in juice, diced tomatoes, whole canned potatoes, kidney beans, cannellini beans, chick peas, whole kernel corn, peas, cut green beans, pears, peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple cubes, tuna, pasta: ziti, elbow, rotini & spaghetti.

Yoga Class at Church

Ann Suh is organizing a yoga class for members of the church and the community, time to be determined. There is a recommended minimum \$10 donation (with one third of the proceeds going to the church.) Students will be required to bring their own mats and accessories. Each yoga session will last for 2 hours, and the class is geared towards health, relaxation, meditation, and spiritual realization. The classes involve chants, stretching, and breathing exercises according to the Sivananda practice. They'll be taught by one of our choir members, Ann Suh, who wishes to offer the gift of positive health and wellness. Ann is a certified yoga instructor and prepared to teach all members of the community including the youth, elderly, pregnant, and the infirm. If you are interested in joining the class, please speak with her.

Good News!

The Mission and Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that our 2014 Stewardship Campaign entitled *Fearless Generosity* has raised \$157,483 in pledges. This is due to the overwhelming generosity of our congregation and to the blessing of receiving 8 new pledges. Thank you everyone!

In addition, the Alternative Christmas Gift has raised \$3,005 to be divided as follows:

Center for Food Action	\$860
Oelhaf House Shelter	\$535
Community of Friends in Action	\$370
Loaves and Fishes	\$590
Camp Johnsonburg	\$450
Other	<u>\$200</u>
	\$3,005

As of December 31, the Christmas Offering amounted to an additional \$924. which was divided equally between the Englewood Hospital Chaplaincy Program and the General Assembly Christmas Offering.

Thank you for your gifts and pledges. This is indeed a very generous and compassionate congregation!

ARE YOU USING THE RIGHT EMAIL ADDRESS?

For Rev. Given, please use: pastorleonia@gmail.com

For the church office, please use: secretaryleonia@gmail.com

January 9th (Friday) 8 P.M.

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Celebrate the New Year!

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: January 9, 2015 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Open: 7:30 pm

Next Session: February 13, 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: Michael Hinton (Piano) Michael Hinton (Piano)

Yoshi Koyama (Sax)

Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)

Shai Rodriguez (Drums)

April Johnson (Keyboard)

Mike Ito (Guitar)

Please contact the following for any questions

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



ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

**Daytime and Evening Classes
Beginning the Week of February 1st.**

Sponsored by Presbyterian 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 Spring Semester

WHEN: Thursday, January 22, 2015

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

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

(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 the following for any questions 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

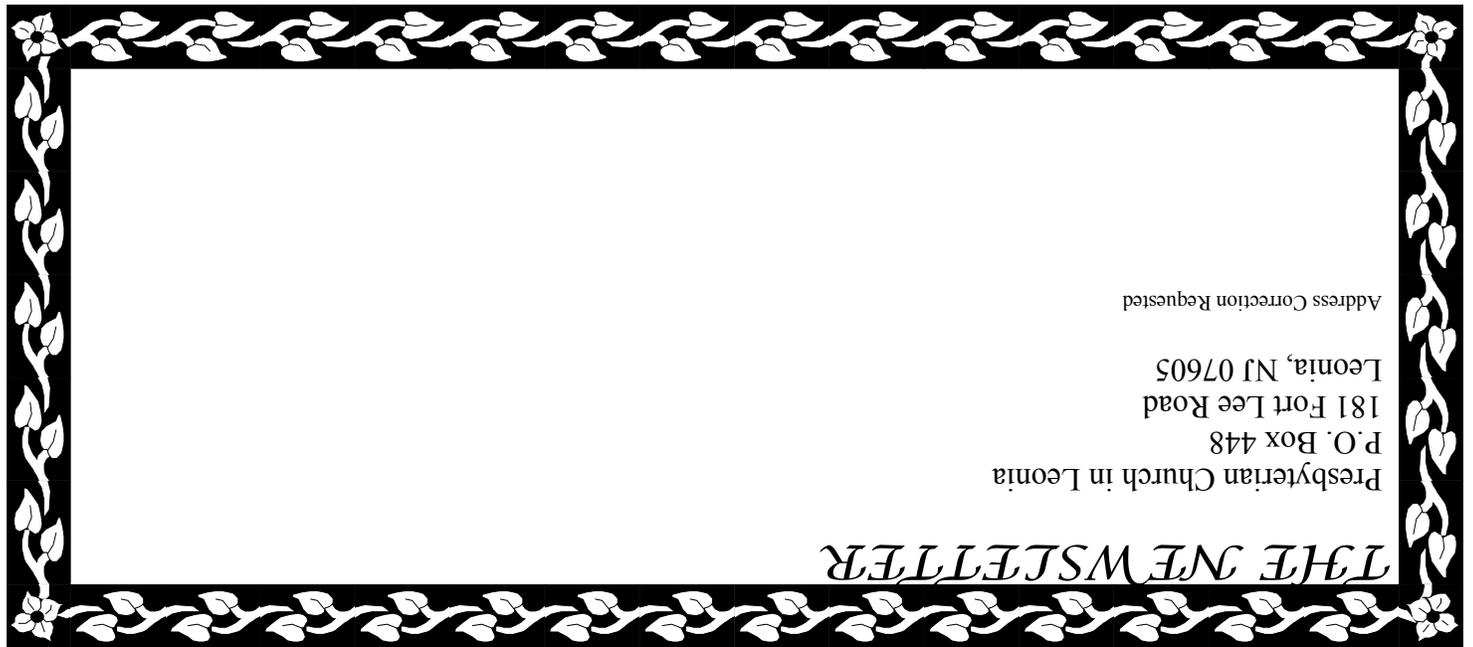
Church Office; secretaryleonia@gmail.com 201-944-1358

MATERIALS/ADMINISTRATION FEE:

Classes meeting once a week: \$25.00/semester (2/1/15 – 5/31/15)

2nd class, if space is available: \$5.00/semester (2/1/15 – 5/31/15)

Visit our website: www.learnenglishinleonia.org

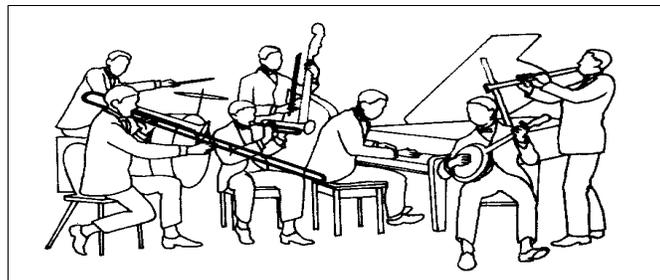


Address Correction Requested

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

THE NEWSLETTER

THE NEWSLETTER



NEW YEAR'S POTLUCK DINNER WITH LIVE JAZZ

Come to the New Year's potluck dinner with live jazz on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10** beginning at 4 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish, appetizer, main course, salad or dessert and drink to share with others. Sign up with the dish you will bring in the entry room.

Jazz performed by Foreign Exchange.