

THE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

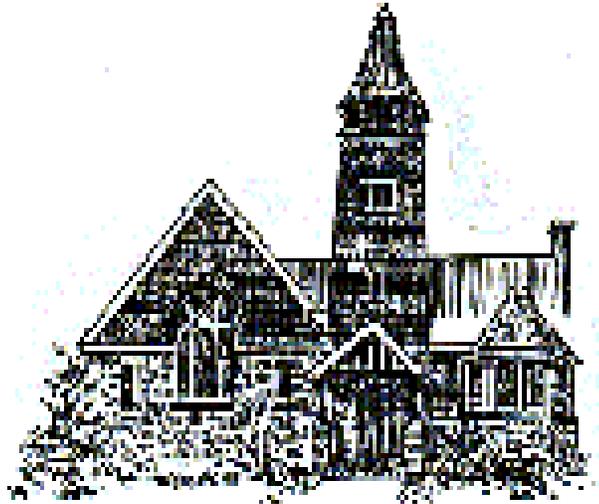
The gospel of Luke reports that when Jesus was crucified he prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (23:34). How is it possible for someone not to know when they are doing wrong?

In his book No Future Without Forgiveness, Bishop Desmond Tutu asked that same question of members of the white establishment in South Africa under apartheid. How could they not know that they benefited from a system that impoverished, oppressed and disempowered a majority of the population? As Tutu pointed out, it's hard to criticize a system when you benefit from it. This does not excuse the exploitation, violence and torture that was committed to maintain the system of apartheid. But if you grow up in this system and have little direct contact with those who suffer, it may be easy to believe that the status quo is normal and acceptable. Most people see things only from their own perspective. And so many white South Africans managed to live their lives without

examining any of their assumptions of what was normal and acceptable.

Did the people who crucified Jesus know what they were doing? It's interesting that this verse, "Father forgive them..." is not found in all the ancient manuscripts of Luke. And the problem is, no one has the original manuscript. We just have copies of copies, so we don't know which version is closest to the original. Was there no verse 34 to start with, but someone added it? If so, why would someone want to add it? To make peace with the Jewish leaders or the Romans who were responsible for Jesus' death? Or, was verse 34 there originally and someone took it out? If so, why would anyone want to take it out? Was it too controversial to think that the people who killed Jesus might not have known what they were doing? And what would it mean if Jesus forgave even them?

The problem of verse 34 shows how divisive forgiveness can be. If we take that verse seriously as we seek to follow Jesus, we may have to forgive even people who torture and murder. But that doesn't mean



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

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

we shouldn't hold them responsible for the wrongs they have done.

Just last week a German court began the trial of a 93 year old former Nazi soldier, Oskar Gronig, who was stationed in Auschwitz in 1944 when 300,000 Hungarian Jews were gassed to death. He kept watch and collected money from the prisoners, but he claims he didn't participate in any crimes. Still, he was well aware that he was part of something that
(continued on page 2)

HEADLINERS

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR SUMMER CAMP? See note on page 2

GARAGE SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 16—HELP WANTED Articles on pages 3 & 5

COME WALK WITH US AT GREENBROOK SANCTUARY More information on page 8

From the Pastor (continued)

was wrong. He said, "It is beyond question that I am morally complicit. This moral guilt I acknowledge here, before the victims, with regret and humility."* He asked for forgiveness and then said to the judge, "As concerns guilt before the law, you must decide."*

The prayer of confession we often say in church says, "We have gone along with evil, prejudice, warfare and greed." We may not have committed overt atrocities like torture and murder. But I don't know anyone who has gotten through life without somehow participating in evil, prejudice, warfare and greed, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Still, if Jesus really said about those who crucified him, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing," wouldn't he pray the same for us? And if we can be assured of God's pardon, it gives us confidence and courage to examine our lives and realize the ways we have participated in evil. Only then can we seek true change and reconciliation.

(continued on page 4)

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Worship Schedule</h1>	

Sunday, May 3— 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day
Rev. Ray Jones will preach

Sunday, May 10—10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day will include a
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
3 p.m. Japanese Language Worship

Sunday, May 17- 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, May 24- 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day and
Celebration of Pentecost

Sunday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.
Service for the Lord's Day

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR
SUMMER CAMP?**

Parents, are you planning **SUMMER CAMP** for your kids? Pick up a Camp Johnsonburg brochure and give your children a great experience at our Church Camp, a carefully crafted program with lots of fun and new friends, and a place to grow in their faith. There are half-week camps for grades 1-3 and one or two week camps for older children and teens. Camps range from sports to explorers, crafty and cookout camps, soccer or science, mystery or music/art/drama camps, biking or tubing, ropes and rocks, canoeing, archery or water world camp and so much more! Scholarships are offered by our church.

There are also one, two or three day **FAMILY** options in July and August sleeping in tents, cabins or in the lodge. Check out these great opportunities for a family vacation.

OPEN HOUSE: MAY 3 1—4 P.M.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------|-------------------|
| May 1 | Kazuko Abe |
| May 2 | Pamela Wright |
| May 4 | Phyllis Ann Puzzo |
| May 8 | Leo Voreacos |
| May 15 | Jack Peters |
| May 16 | Joe VanDeWeert |
| May 19 | Tony Puzzo |
| | Rena Marie Shim |
| May 22 | Sonia Solano |
| May 25 | Diane Borer |

PLEASE LET MICHELE, (201-944-1358) KNOW IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY AND WOULD LIKE IT LISTED.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE GARAGE SALE??

We need new or gently used items to sell. You may drop off all items Tuesday, May 12 between the hours of 7:30 and 9 p.m., Wednesday, May 13 from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Friday, May 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. If these hours are not good for you, please contact Fumio Ito. Please leave all items behind the ark in the Entry Room. Anything that is not sold should be picked up by the donor at the end of the sale, or on Sunday morning.

In order to make the most money possible, we are asking for YOUR help. Can you donate a case of water and/or soda? We also need 30 bagels, butter and cream cheese. And finally, two large thermal trays filled with ice. If you can help with any of these things, please speak with Fumio Ito.

We also need your help to spread the word. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come and shop. We especially need help on the day of the sale. Please sign up in the entry room.

Remember, all the money we make at this garage sale will go to the Children of Uganda.

Ushers

5/3/15	Karen Peters, Barbara & Michael Sofia
5/10/15	Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
5/17/15	Jeff Im, Elin Park & Roberta Toolen
5/24/15	Christine Banas, Kristin Richter & Lisa VanDeWeert
5/31/15	Esther Jeong, Hwan Hee Kang & Dina Razafy

OFFERING COUNTERS

5/3/15	Ginny Brown & Fumio Ito
5/10/15	Olivia Taylor & David Voreacos
5/17/15	Jonathan Phillips & Pete Shanno
5/24/15	Hyung Shim & Fumio Ito
5/31/15	Ginny Brown & Olivia Taylor

CHILD CARE

5/3/15	Angie Chung
5/10/15	Vicky Li
5/17/15	Kristen Richter
5/24/15	Linda McGarry
5/31/15	Lisa/Joe VanDeWeert

The **Rev. Greg Keosaian** is home from the hospital after having major surgery and is being monitored by a visiting nurse and a wonderful neighbor who is also a nurse and dear friend. Please keep Greg in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank You

The final total for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** collected on Palm Sunday was \$2,390.10 which included \$146.44 in the banks from the children. The money will support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Fund, and the fund for the Self-development of People. The **Easter** offering totaled \$1,284 which will be split between Loaves and Fishes and the Center for Food Action.

Piano Concert on Saturday May 2, 4:30 p.m. The Special Ministry to Japanese (SMJ) is sponsoring a fundraising concert to raise money to bring Japanese children suffering the effects of the great earthquake and tsunami of 2011 to the Discovery Summer Camp in the United States this summer. Pianist Ms. Yukiko Tanaka is a native of Tokyo, Japan and has been active as a piano soloist and a chamber musician in the United States, Canada, Spain, Italy and Japan. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for children under 12. If you are unable to attend but wish to donate, please make checks payable to the Japanese American United Church, memo "Camp."

A GOODBYE NOTE FROM: Nell & J. Stanley Barlow to the Riverview in Florida

Please excuse this awkward, hurried way to let people know about our permanent move from Florida to our home in North Carolina. But our selling, moving out and taking-off for our cottage in North Carolina, were so rapid in succession that we didn't get that loving chore done. We cherish your friendship and remember your many kindness through the years.

Nell and I have lived in The Riverview since close to the beginning, in the 1970's and have owned our condo since 2000. Since I retired from teaching in the City University of New York in 1995, we have been spending a portion of every year at the Riverview. For many years we lived in Leonia, NJ. We had moved our domicile from NJ to Florida in 2008. So you can imagine the adjustment we now are trying to make.

Our address now is 13 Forsythia Court, Durham, NC 27705.

FROM THE PASTOR

Continued from page 2

May we become aware of "what we are doing," as individuals and as a nation, and come before God with humility and repentance, that we may discover reconciliation and life, in Jesus' name.

Blessings,
Debra Given

* "Judging the Guilt of a Man Who Admits Complicity at Auschwitz," by Alison Smale, *The New York Times*, Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Garage Sale **to benefit Ugandan Children in Africa**

Japanese, Korean & American sellers

The Presbyterian Church in Leonia is sponsoring a Japanese, Korean & American Garage Sale to raise funds for the Children of Uganda.

There are more orphans in Uganda than anywhere else in the world – over 2.4 million children – due to the AIDS epidemic, extreme poverty, and decades of civil conflict. Children of Uganda gives over 300 children safe shelter, food, clothing, education and medical care, from age 5 all the way up to completing their secondary education, vocational training or university. In Uganda, there are no public schools, so without school fees, children can't go to school. Each child who is educated, fed and safe is a strong foundation for peace. You can visit the website www.childrenofuganda.org for pictures and more information about the organization.



Date: May 16th (Sat) 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
(rain or shine)

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

Beverages will be available for sale all day.

Come, shop, and help us raise money
for this worthy cause.

May 8th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Happy Mother's Day!

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".

WHEN: May 8th, 2015 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: June 12th, 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)

Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)

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

Address Correction Requested

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

THE NEWSLETTER

**HIKING/WALKING TRIP IN
GREENBROOK SANCTUARY**

The Membership & Outreach Committee is sponsoring a hiking trip to the Greenbrook Sanctuary on Sunday, May 31st, which is a 165 acre woodland preserve on top of the Palisades in Tenafly and Alpine, NJ. We will have lunch after church services and then carpool to the Sanctuary. If you are interested and need more information, please speak with Nancy Salvati. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entry room.

Did you sign up for Sunday Flowers?

First we would like to say THANK YOU for helping to make the sanctuary look so beautiful and welcoming when you sign up for Sunday flowers. Just a reminder, the florist does not send you a bill, it is your responsibility to pay us, the Presbyterian Church and we will pay the florist at the end of each month. Again, thank you and please check, I think there are still some Sundays open.