

THE NEWSLETTER

October 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

The world today is faced with the greatest refugee crisis since World War II. According to a recent UN report, there are close to 60 million people in the world who are either refugees, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. And the number is growing rapidly. How do we respond as people of faith?

Recently I read* about a gathering of people in South Carolina who were angry and anxious about refugees settling in their small town. They said they were afraid of Muslim extremists who they were sure would disrupt their way of life, even though most of the 32 people who have already been placed in the area are Christian. Still, one woman said, we are not a Muslim nation and we can't co-exist with Muslims. Another man questioned whether the refugees could be sent back to their home country. When he was told they could not, he became frustrated and asked, so, do we shoot them? The crowd responded with laughter and applause.

That's one reaction – fear,

distrust and rejection of people who are different, even families of the same religion in desperate need. But others, including pastors and church members, are responding with generosity and grace, welcoming newcomers into their communities, offering a cup of water, a sign of welcome, a helping hand.

Human beings have always been on the move, either seeking a better life, or seeking safety. God first began a covenant with Abraham by calling him and his wife Sarah to leave their country and go "to a land that I will show you." Then Abraham's descendants moved to Egypt to escape drought and poverty, and lived as foreigners there.

Generations later, Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt to a new land. Even Jesus' family had to flee to another country to escape the ruthless and murderous King Herod. Our faith is based on stories of migration and deliverance to new lands of hope and blessing.

And we are not to forget where we came from. In Deuteronomy (26:5), when the Hebrew people offered their first fruits



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. Box 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358
FAX. 201 944-6812
WEBSITE WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG

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

first fruits to God, they were commanded to recite, "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor," and recount the story of their sojourn in Egypt and deliverance. They were also ordered to "love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut. 10:19). And when the apostle Paul described marks of a true Christian, he included, "extend hospitality to strangers" (Rom. 12:13b).

Continued page 2

HEADLINES

JAZZ JAM SESSION—OCTOBER 9—8 p.m.

POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP—NOVEMBER 8—save the date!

USHER, OFFERING COUNTERS & NURSERY CARE SCHEDULES see last page

CAN YOU HELP AT THE HOLIDAY FAIR? Information on page 2

PLEDGE SUNDAY COMING NOVEMBER 15!

From the Pastor (Continued)

Many of us have ancestors, or we ourselves have traveled to this country to escape poverty or persecution, or simply for better opportunities. And we are not to forget where we came from. It is a privilege and basic to our spiritual lives to give back and pass our blessings on to others, as God still calls people to new places of freedom, hope and blessing.

May we care for those who need help, and show God's presence in the world with compassion, joy and hope.

Blessings,

Debra Given

* Fausset, Richard, "Fear Arrives in South Carolina Long Before Any Actual Syrians," The New York Times, September 26, 2015, page A1.

JAZZ JAM SESSION—

Bring an instrument and play with the pros. Don't worry, any level of player is welcome! If you don't know Jazz, or you don't have plans on **Friday, October 9, 8-10 p.m. you are welcome to join us.** Doors open at the Presbyterian Church in Leonia, 181 Fort Lee Road, at 7:30 p.m. Can't make it this month, don't worry, the next session is November 13 and we will continue on the second Friday each month.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| October 2 | Pete Shanno |
| October 9 | John Koepl |
| October 11 | Jae Lee |
| October 27 | Francis Callahan
Stephanie Laboy |

COME, LET US WORSHIP GOD. . . .

Sunday, October 4 11:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday at our church and the Rev. Wanda Lundy will preach.
 Sunday School is at 10:00.
 Fellowship hour to follow.

Saturday, October 10, 4 p.m.
 Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 11 10:30 a.m.
 Service for the Lord's Day
 After Worship—Bible Study
 3-5 p.m. Japanese Ministry Worship

Sunday, October 18 10:30 a.m.
 Service for the Lord's Day,
 After Worship—Bible Study

Sunday, October 25 10:30 a.m.
 Reformation Sunday—Service for the Lord's Day, Elder Paul Talarico will preach



HOLIDAY FAIR

We need crafters, people to sell at tables, cooks, setup and cleanup crews, lunch wait staff, etc. If you can help in any way, please let Karen Peters know (201-592-8413) Jkmk142@aol.com). We want to make sure that everyone is involved in this major fundraiser for our church, plus we have fun! Plan to be there on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21.**



FEED THE HUNGRY— We receive food donations every **Sunday** and distribute them to either the **Center for Food Action** or **Loaves and Fishes**. The following frequently used staples are needed for Loaves and Fishes. Please place them in the basket in the front of the sanctuary:

Tomato soup, beef or chicken broth (preferably low sodium), canned vegetables (peas, cut string beans, corn, carrots) canned sliced fruits, apple sauce, beef gravy, pasta: orzo, elbow, rotini), When shopping, remember to pick up extras and bring

them with you on Sunday. Thank you.

FAMILY PROMISE—THANK YOU

I hesitate to name all of the Family Promise Shelter volunteers who donated their time and talents on July 1, 2 and 3 this summer because I cannot find my list of workers and do not want to accidentally leave anyone out. We have a wonderful church family who support each other and share our blessings with the world. Our next scheduled date at the family shelter is December 22. Please check your calendars to see if you might be available to cook dinner or spend an evening.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

This year's World Communion celebration will be at our church. We will join for worship at **11:00 a.m.** with the Bethany and Teaneck Presbyterian Churches. We will have a joint choir, a joint activity period for the children, and the Rev. Dr. Wanda Lundy will be the preacher. We will supply appetizers and finger foods to share at the reception following worship. If you would like to bring something or help with set up or clean up, please speak with Karen Peters. Our congregation has been working and celebrating with our cluster churches for many years now. Please join us for this festive event, and celebrate our communion with Christians throughout the world.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Blessing of the Animals will be held at the church on **Saturday, October 10th, at 4 p.m.** (weather permitting). There is a very tight bond that exists between people and their pets. When you come home, you can expect a rousing and sometime wild greeting from your pet, be it cat or dog. We haven't heard reports of goldfish or hamsters leaping about, but it doesn't matter; they are all God's creatures. The celebration will be outside the church on the grass in the middle of our courtyard. Bring all your animals. It could be an ant village, or a reptile, perhaps a bird, maybe a camel, all species are welcome! *Please keep your pet on a leash or in a secure pen for the safety of the other animals.* If there are any special needs, or suggestions that you think will enhance the celebration, please contact Rev. Debra Given or Michael Sofia (201-343-6206).

SEPTEMBER SESSION MINUTES

The meeting location was changed to Elder J. Wilson's home due to the air conditioning being repaired in the Fireplace Room of the Church. The meeting opened at 7:35 with prayer.

Session **VOTED and APPROVED** the minutes of the July 14, 2015 monthly meeting and **VOTED and APPROVED** the minutes of the August 9, 2015 Congregational Meeting.

Mission & Stewardship—Elder S. Shanno reported that there were two groups of volunteers who worked over the summer at Habitat for Humanity in Paterson and Family Promise.

Property—Elder Topousis reported that the asbestos removal in the education building has been completed. Some of the church's indoor lighting has been changed to be more energy efficient. The Fireplace Room air conditioning unit was replaced. Elder P. Shanno is speaking with heating specialists about how to make the boiler operate more efficiently. Elder Peters will speaking with the architect to discuss moving along with the bathroom and kitchen renovations.

Worship—Elder Sophia reported that attendance in July was 212 and August was 241. Communion by intinction was held on July 9 and August 16. World Communion Sunday will be hosted by our church on October 4.

Asian Ministry—Elder Ito reported that English Conversation Class (Fall Semester) will start the week of September 28 and end the week of December 7. SMJ—Tsunami victim students enjoyed coming to this country and spending time attending camp. They appreciated their host families: Linda McGarry, Jonathan and Virginia Phillips and Susan and Kenneth Dindial. The students and host families are continuing to communicate by email. The Jazz Jam continues to thrive with guest players.

Budget and Finance: Procedure for finding new Treasurers. Rev. Given and Elder Voreacos will begin to look into hiring a payroll company and a bookkeeper to handle the church finances. The treasurers also recommend changing our accounting program and hiring a tech person to install and activate it. It was decided that this matter should be referred to the Budget Committee to investigate the cost and make recommendations. Elder Wilson made a motion that a bookkeeper be hired to handle the church finances. The motion was passed.

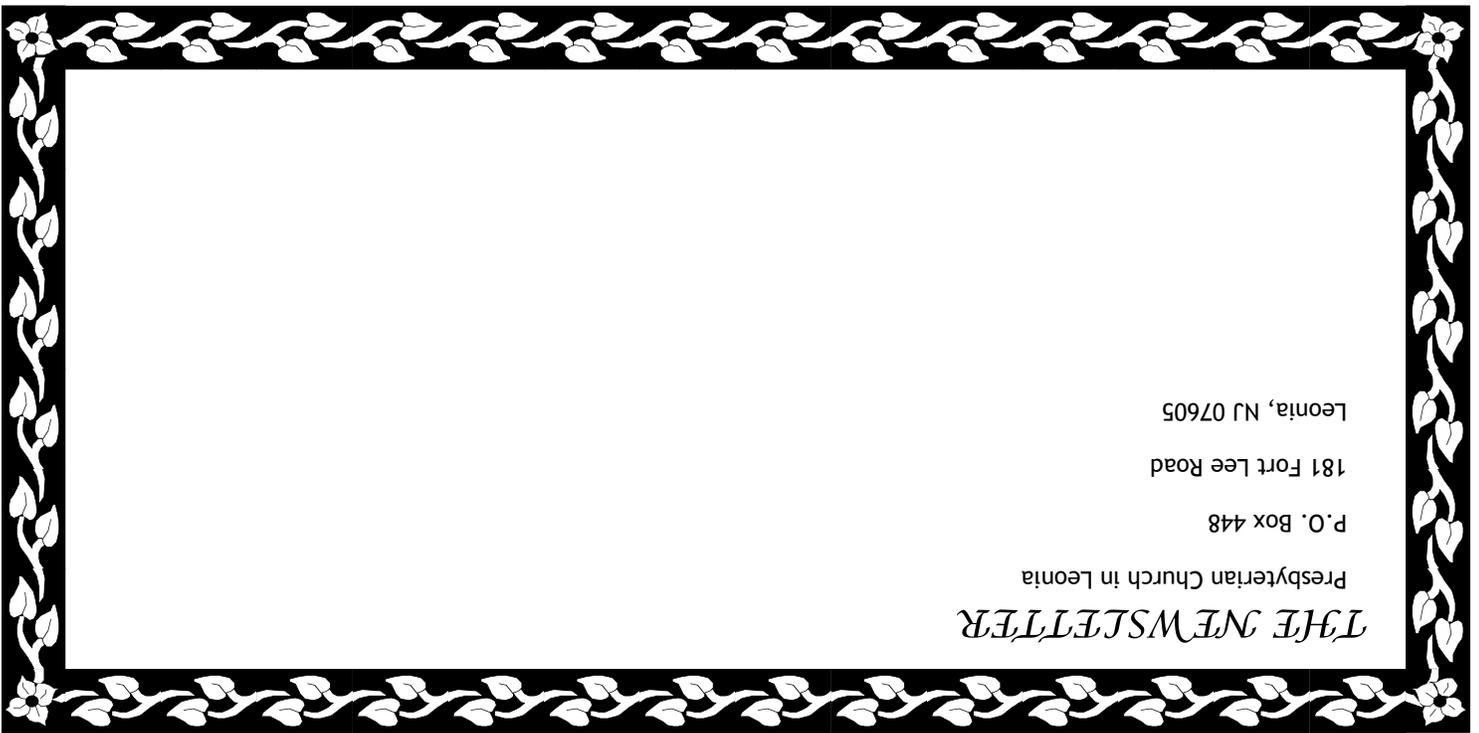
Christian Education—the Committee recognized all the teachers, parents and students who participated in the Bake Sale at the driveway sale to raise money for the Children of Uganda. The committee also recognized Ali Etedali and Elder Broffman for their creation of the Sunday school garden. The children have participated in planting and watering the garden and they continue to be educated on how to compost and contribute to the garden. There will be the following classes: PreK, Younger Elementary and Middle School.

Fellowship Committee—There will be a farewell Fellowship Hour for Rev. Dr. Soon Hee Earm before she returns to Korea.

Moderator's Report—Thank you letters were received from CFA and Camp Johnsonburg for receipt of contributions. Doris Feirer sent a thank you for hosting a reception after her husband Warren's Memorial Service.

The next stated meeting is Tuesday, October 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peters, Clerk Pro Temp



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

THE NEWSLETTER

USHERS FOR THE MONTH

October 4	Esther Jeong, Hwan Hee Kang & Ammal Varky
October 11	Susan Dindial, Judith Nyironge & Lisa VanDeWeert
October 18	Esther Jeong, Vicky Li & Fara Razafy
October 25	Barbara Sofia, Michael Sofia & Roberta Toolen

OFFERING COUNTERS

October 4	Olivia Taylor & David Voreacos
October 11	Hyung Kune Shim & Jonathan Phillips
October 18	Ginny Brown & Olivia Taylor
October 25	Hyung Kune Shim & Pete Shanno

NURSERY CARE

October 4	Kristen Richter
October 11	Kristen Richter
October 18	Sarah Han
October 25	Linda McGarry