

THE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

As I prepare to leave Leonia, I have been going through files and cleaning out my office. And I came across the first two newsletter articles I wrote back in October and November of 2000. I thanked you for your warm welcome, and asked you to be patient with me as I learned your names and got a feel for your church. I was ordained in 1980, but this was my first full time call, and my first as a solo pastor. It was a time of turmoil and pain for the church, and I had lots to learn.

I had signed a one-year contract with an option to renew. And a few of you seemed to be worried I would leave after that one year. I had no idea at that point what the future would hold, but I assured you that I would stay for the right amount of time, whether it was one year, five, or 15. And I said, "If we trust God

to take care of us and the church, we will agree on what that time is..." And whatever amount of time it turned out to be, we should see it as a gift to both of us.

Now I am getting ready to leave after 15 wonderful years with you. Many of you are sad to see me go and have told me you wish I could stay longer. I am sad too. We have had a wonderful time together, and we have both matured and grown. I have come to love you all, from the youngest child in the nursery to the most senior member. I am going to miss seeing and working and worshiping with you. But as I reminded you when I first came here, there is no such thing as a permanent pastor. I am leaving while things are still going well in the church, and not when I'm singing the same songs to you, over and over, at age 90. I have no idea what God has in



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.leonlapres.org

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

store for me next, or for you. But we can trust that God will guide us, and it will be good.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans (8:28), "... all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Everything that

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HEADLINERS

JAZZ JAM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 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 7 in the Fireplace Room—A luncheon will precede the business meeting. Annual Reports will be available January 31..

From the Pastor (continued)

happens can be used by God for something good. Everything. Paul also wrote, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him..." (1 Cor. 2:9).

I hope you will offer a warm welcome to those who come after me. And be patient. It takes a while for someone to learn your names and get a feel for the church. But you will all keep learning and growing in new ways. And you will have an impact on your new pastor, just as he or she will help to shape your identity. So may you concentrate on loving God, honoring each person's concerns and needs, and listening for and responding to God's call in your lives. And you can expect great things to happen.

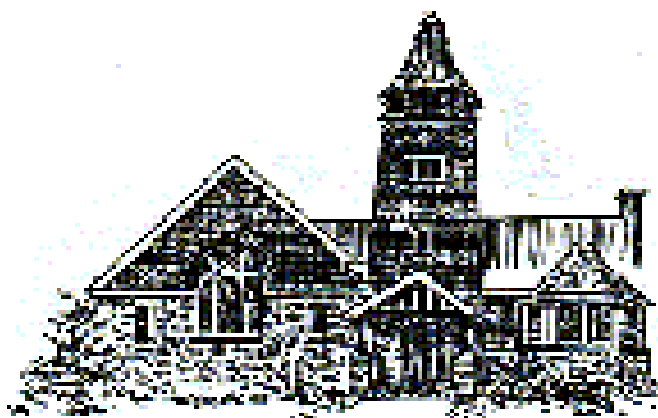
With much love and God's blessings,

Debra Given

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.)

And check out our most recent pictures on the church's FACEBOOK page. Just type in "Presbyterian Church in Leonia" on the "Search Facebook" strip at the top of the page, and click. Pictures!



Sunday, January 3—10:30 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day will include ordination of officers and deacons.

Sunday, January 10—Baptism of the Lord

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper and Baptismal Renewal.

Sunday, January 17—10:30 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day, the Rev. Marianne Rhebergen will preach.

Sunday, January 24—10:30 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day the Rev. Fran Thiessen will preach.

Sunday, January 31—10:30 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day, the Rev. Fran Thiessen will preach

Dear Leonia Presbyterian Church,

It was nice to see some of you at Talitha's ordination service back in September. I pray that God will lead you through this time of transition, as Debra retires. Trust in the Lord will lead you in discernment.

Know that you are in my prayers and thoughts. Nice to see many updates on Facebook as well.

Samson Tso

(Samson was our seminary intern for two years.)

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 **\$38.15 per member** which comes out to a total of \$ 4,387 for 2016. **If you are a member of the church (and able), please pay your per-capita apportionment using the blue envelope in the front of your 2016 envelope box or mark your check per capita.** You can put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.



*If you would like to sign up for **Chancel Flowers** for a specific Sunday, please do so by signing up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board 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.*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the 2015 Holiday Fair. Each year I am so pleasantly surprised by how many of you turn out to help set up, cook, sell, shop and clean up; it all results in a successful fundraiser. Our 2015 Holiday Fair exceeded our goal, with a grand total profit of \$2910.10! Thank you, again, for your wonderful support of this event.

Karen Peters
Holiday Fair, Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND DIRECTORY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP JANUARY 31. 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 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

1/10/2016	Christine Banas, Kristin Richter & Lisa VanDeWeert
1/17/2016	Hwan Hee Kang & Judith Nyirongo
1/24/2016	Susan Dindial, Rae Giannuzzi & Ammal Varky
1/31/2016	Vicky Li, Maryellen Neu & Fara Razafy

OFFERING COUNTERS

January 10	Fumio Ito & Jonathan Phillips
January 17	Anne Stebbins & Pete Shanno
January 24	Hyung Kune Shim & Diane Borer
January 31	Ginny Brown & David Voreacos

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

January 10	Elizabeth Even-Ezra
January 17	Linda McGarry
January 24	Hwan Hee Kang
January 31	Judith Nyirongo

Good News!

The Mission and Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that our 2016 Stewardship Campaign entitled Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity has raised \$131,232 in pledges. This is due to the generosity of our congregation and to the blessing of 8 new pledges. Thank you everyone!

In addition, the Alternative Christmas Gift has raised \$3,235 divided as follows:

Center for Food Action	\$860
Oelhaf House Shelter	\$770
Community of Friends in Action	\$245
Loaves and Fishes	\$790
Camp Johnsonburg	\$570

As of December 31, the Christmas Offering amounted to an additional \$1,104. 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!

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 prepare food for more than 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.



Thank you!

Happy Christmas!
Wishing you and church friends a
Blessed and peace in all seasons!

Alla Drobikova

**January 8th (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 , 2015 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Open: 7:30 pm
Next Session: February 12, 2016 (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)**
Yoshi Koyama (Sax)
Shai Rodriguez (Drums)
April Johnson (Keyboard)
Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)
Mike Ito (Guitar)

Please contact the following for any questions

Church: secretaryleoniam@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 8th.**

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: Tuesday, January 26, 2016

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

Thursday, February 4, 2016

(For a 2nd class, if space is available)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 8:30 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 (2/8/16 – 5/23/16)

2nd class, if space is available: \$5.00/semester (2/8/16 – 5/23/16)

Visit our website: www.learnenglishinleonia.org



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