



Spreading Branches

The Newsletter of Lansdale Presbyterian Church

450 Oak Park Road

www.lansdalepres.org

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"I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me bears much fruit..." John 15:5

October 2018

LPC Vision Update – by Pastor Tom Keane

In 2011 trends in our church (an aging demographic and a decline in attendance) prompted a congregational survey which revealed that some changes were in order. Two areas in particular stood out from the survey, preaching and worship. Prayerful consideration and initial steps to address these things in the following years led the elders into a full-blown strategic planning process in September 2013.

Out of that process a vision statement was developed: *"Gathering a community to live for Christ."* Along with this statement four key words: *Encourage, Grow, Equip, and Go* were adopted to reflect our core values and aspirations. We decided that for this particular moment in the life of our church, a special focus needed to be on the word "go," as Jesus has called us to "go and make disciples." We saw the need to ask ourselves what specifically is our role as a church as we go out as co-laborers with God in the work of gathering a people for himself.

The thinking was that to be a "going" church we needed two things.

- First was a **robust sense of mission** – a mindset in which we see ourselves both individually and corporately as being sent into all the world by Jesus just as the Father sent him (John 20:21).
- Second we saw our need to be **intentional** about our mission. This would mean that we would pray about it, orient our lives and ministry around it, and seek effective means for carrying out our mission in our local community.

With this vision in hand, we began to talk about specific initiatives that would help us attain our new emphasis on being a "going" church. Out of a list of ten initiatives, four were chosen to take top priority. They were Vision Casting, Preaching, Worship, and Visitor Ministry. Four teams have been created to move these initiatives forward.

- **Vision Casting:** A small Strategic Planning Team was formed to help steer the ongoing planning process, and help carry our new vision to the various ministries of our church. Each LPC ministry will be asked to evaluate what they are doing in light of our church vision. So far this team has met with the deacons and with the women's ministry, and with a newly created visitor initiative team.
- **Preaching:** A Preaching Initiative Team is meeting regularly with Pastor Keane to evaluate the preaching with a special focus on whether it is communicating effectively with people outside our church community. Are their needs and questions being addressed, and are they being addressed in culturally relevant ways?

(continued on next page)

LPC Vision Update (continued)

- **Worship:** A Worship Initiative Team has developed “standards” for our worship services that we hope will make our services more accessible and welcoming to outsiders. For example we want to take care that the language we use in worship leading and prayers will communicate with outsiders. Things that we may take for granted should be explained for the sake of those who may not be acquainted with our terms or practices. The team is engaged in an ongoing discussion about our worship music. While we want to draw from the rich depth of the music available to us (past and present), and while we want to honor the Lord and minister to his people, we also want to have music and lyrics that speak and minister to the outsider.
- **Visitor Ministry:** A Visitor Initiative Team has begun to look at the visitor experience at our church to ensure that each one who visits will have a welcoming and positive experience. We are looking at three related areas: Welcome, Getting and Giving Information, and Follow Up. Already we have reorganized our lobby area with a “Connection Desk,” and new literature displays. This month we will begin to use “Connection Cards” instead of our past practice of using Friendship Books. A new service called “Text in Church” will help us make better use of social media and mobile devices to follow up with those who visit.

These are not the only things that we will be doing. Other important initiatives are to come, but we need to start somewhere, and we realized that we could not address everything at once. Please keep these ongoing efforts in your prayers as we work to move toward our vision of being a “going” church. We will only be effective in the Lord’s ministry by his help. Feedback on any of the above areas is always welcome. We want to know what you are thinking! So please feel free to speak with one of the elders or send an email or note to the church office and let us know how you think things are “going”.

Deacons’ Harvest Home Ministry

Once again, our deacons will be collecting donations for their Thanksgiving Harvest Home Ministry.

There will be opportunities to donate non-perishable food items as well as turkeys and home-baked pies. Food baskets will be distributed to families who have a need the week before Thanksgiving.

Special offering:

- There will be a special offering on Sunday, November 18th to purchase additional items for food baskets.

Watch for details in your weekly bulletin and the November issue of Spreading Branches.



Reformation Day Services October 28, 2018

Tenth Presbyterian Church

17th & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia
6:15 – 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Carl Trueman
Jude 24-25

Special music and congregational singing
Featuring the text and musical legacy of
Martin Luther with the Westminster
Brass and Tenth Church Choir

Proclamation Presbyterian Church

278 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr
6:00 pm

Watch for more information in your
Sunday bulletin

Seniors Living in Christ (SLIC)

On September 19, eleven seniors met at the Franconia Heritage for lunch. After we consumed a delicious variety of fare, we traveled to Asher's Candy and took their self-guided tour. There were videos which told the story of how the 126-year old family owned company processes their decadent chocolate delicacies and we could watch some of the assembly lines. We then received a free piece of chocolate of our choice from the case. We also had time to browse through their retail store. It was a nice way to spend time together on a beautiful day.

On October 17, Seniors are invited to the LPC Library at 10:30 AM to hear Speaker, Lee Patkos, Executive Director of the Pregnancy Resource Clinic of North Penn. As part of her presentation, she will show a four minute video. This will be followed by Pizza for lunch. Please see the sign-up sheet for details. If you have questions, please call Martha (215-368-4936) or Dottie (215-855-8087).



SAVE THE DATE!
Thanksgiving Service
Sunday Evening, November 18th
5:30 pm – Fellowship Meal (covered dish dinner)
6:30 pm Worship Service



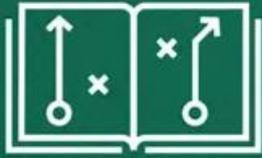
1. Fill an empty bottle with coins, cash and checks.
2. Save lives!

Baby Bottle Boomerang
Loose Change Can Change A Life!

Pregnancy Resource Clinic
OF NORTH PENN.

Baby Bottle Boomerang
Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Baby Bottle Boomerang program to benefit the Pregnancy Resource Clinic of North Penn. This year we had 25 bottles and all were taken to be filled! If you have not yet returned a bottle that you have taken, please contact the church office (lori@lansdalepres.org, or call #215.368-1119, x22) to make arrangements to return it as soon as possible.
Thank you!

www.prcnorthpenn.org



THE FAITH PLAYBOOK

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE AND FAITH



CARSON WENTZ



NICK FOLES



TREY BURTON



JORDAN HICKS



CHRIS MARAGOS



JORDAN MATTHEWS



STEFEN WISNIEWSKI



SCOTT HANSON



PAUL TRIPP

Save the Date!

On Sunday, November 4th, LPC will be hosting a screening of *The Faith Playbook*. This event features honest and compelling testimonies as Dr. Paul Tripp interviews Carson Wentz, Nick Foles, Trey Burton, Chris Maragos, Jordan Hicks, Stefen Wisniewski, and Jordan Matthews about their faith.

You can view a trailer video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EdoOHMIG28 or scan the code:



Watch for more details to come!

Food From the Heart Dinner *

Date: September 30, 2018

Number of Guests: 40

Menu: Chicken vegetable soup, tossed salad, roll/butter, chili, rice, roasted cauliflower, cornbread, apple pie and vanilla ice cream

Head Chefs: Riham Halvorsen, Lilibeth Witner

Speaker: Matt Halvorsen

Topic: Psalm 23, "God's Peace in Our Lives"

Special Music: "The Grace of God" (John Prall, Albert Swartz, Ben Koch, Dennis Nice, Daniel Eom)

*Food From the Heart dinners are the last Sunday of each month at 1 pm.



Ladies Night Out

This past weekend the Women's Ministry hosted a fabulous Ladies' Night Out. The newly renovated café and lobby looked even more beautiful with autumnal decor, courtesy of Brumbaugh Farms, which provided a festive setting for our fall kick off!

The ladies were entertained with various games and antics, led by Tammy Stratton and Alda Parris. As we enjoyed great food, fun and fellowship, we got to know other women in our church and community throughout the laughter filled evening!

Amber Etherton introduced the Women's Ministry Team and spoke about this year's theme of Knowing You. Our hope is that through our Bible studies, events and ministry opportunities we will be seeking to grow in our knowledge of God, each other, and the understanding of how we are known so intimately by God.



I had an enjoyable evening. It was great to get together with the ladies and exchange topics, ideas, experiences and laughter. Looking forward to another ladies' night.



It was great to laugh with people that I don't often hang out with!



What an encouragement to read scripture aloud with women in the covenant community – to reaffirm that our God is a God who never sleeps and who holds our every step in the palm of his hand!



What a blast!! Way to kick-off the women's ministry of LPC this season! Many thanks to the committee!

October

This month's events:

- 1 7:00 pm Women's Ministry meeting
- 2 6:00 am Men's Ministry (weekly)
11:00 am Presbytery Lunch at LPC
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (weekly)
7:30 pm Band Rehearsal (weekly)
- 4 9 am Ladies' Bible Study (weekly)
6:30 pm Session Meeting
7 pm Ladies' Bible Study (weekly)
- 5 10:30 am Small Group (weekly)
5:30 pm Wedding rehearsal
- 6 1:00 pm Wedding/Reception
- 7 9:15 am Christian Ed. (weekly)
10:30 am Worship Service (weekly)
 - Rev. Brian Hand preaching
 - Communion
 5:30 pm Youth Group (weekly)
5:30 pm Small Groups
- 8 7:00 pm MOPS
- 9 7:00 pm Pastoral Search Committee meeting
- 14 10:30 am Worship Service
 - Rev. Rodrigo de Sousa preaching
 2:00 pm Meadowood Ministry
- 15 7:00 pm MOPS Bible Study
7:00 pm Deacons' Mercy Ministry meeting
- 17 10:30 am Seniors Living in Christ Speaker
and lunch at LPC
- 22 6:30 pm Licensure and Ordination Team
meeting (Presbytery)
7:00 pm Men's Ministry
- 21 5:30 pm Children's Ministry
- 23 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Pastoral Search Committee meeting



If your birthday or anniversary does not appear on our list or if there has been an error, please contact the church office.
Thank you.



- 2 Caleb Han
- 3 Kellie Adam
Sarah Prall
Allison Santos
- 4 Matthew Gunnell
- 6 Ben Koch
- 7 Jim Krug
Karen Schaldenbrand
- 9 Ron P.
- 10 Dean Miller
- 11 Bill Edgar
Chelsea Holmes
- 12 Ginny Whitney
- 15 Haven Liegel
- 16 Matthew Hathaway
Serenity Liegel
- 18 Mike Hand
- 22 Nancy Brewer
Craig Schwartz
- 26 Dave Brewer
Joel Santos
- 27 Corrie Giffone
Michael Kennedy



- 4 Charlie & Phyllis Miller
- 6 Paul & Joy H
- 8 Bob & Michele Wunderlich
- 10 Chris & Erin Godshall
- 14 Will & Suzy Liegel
- 16 John & Sue Hathaway
- 17 Brian & Lilibeth Witner
- 30 Tom & Cathy Keane