



Spreading Branches

The Newsletter of Lansdale Presbyterian Church

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

May 2018

LPC Town Hall Meeting- by JJ Zeller

On April 15, 2018, we held a Town Hall Meeting to talk about LPC's future plans for staffing. Our plan for the meeting was to petition God for his blessing, help all of us see the vision moving forward, share a first draft of the lead pastor job description and staffing model, explain the succession plan and search committee formation process, and answer questions. This brief article is a recap of that meeting.

After a delicious covered dish meal, Pastor Keane kicked off the evening by sharing his reasons for retiring and his hope and confidence in the future of LPC. As in February when he first announced his retirement at the congregational meeting, he again shared that after much prayer, he has decided to retire in January 2020. He talked about personal plans for future ministry and writing projects, and also expressed his enthusiasm for helping LPC have a successful transition to a new lead pastor as we continue to move toward our vision.

Pastor Keane has often reminded us that "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain" (Ps. 127:1). In keeping with this, Phil Mooney led us in small group prayer as we seek God's help and leading in all our decisions and actions involved in the selection of a future pastor. The importance of asking for God's help in our future planning cannot be overstated. As we continue through this process to January 2020, we will be asking for prayer for every step of the way.

Moving to a review of the succession plan, I shared that a succession plan is simply planning the steps that need to happen between now and the day Pastor Keane retires. Most notably, our plan includes an open search for our lead pastor. An open search looks at candidates who may be inside or outside LPC. We discussed that although the Session sees Brian Hand as a strong internal candidate, we still believe that an open search is the best way to determine God's will. We also believe that whoever is chosen to be the next pastor will benefit from this process, knowing that he was carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully selected. The congregation will also benefit, because this process will allow all options to be considered. That way no one will look back and ask, "what if?". That is a powerful and wise way to position our next pastor for success in his ministry.

Steve Smith then presented the draft lead pastor job description and the pastor staffing model. He explained that we believe a two pastor model (a lead pastor, and a pastoral care pastor) is the best fit for LPC for many reasons. In particular, because our vision focuses on reaching outsiders (i.e., non-Christians, disenfranchised Christians, etc.), the lead pastor has an outward facing emphasis and the pastoral care pastor has an inward facing emphasis. While this emphasis is built into the job description, it's not exclusive. Both pastors will overlap and support each other where appropriate. Steve also explained that we welcome feedback from the congregation regarding the job description. Please feel free to contact any elder with your feedback.

Then we opened the meeting up for Q&A. One of the main purposes of the town hall was to give the congregation a chance to ask questions. There were many good questions and comments. Keep in mind that you can always come to an elder with any thoughts you have. So please feel free to do that.

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At this point, we moved to talking about the pastoral search committee. I presented the process for creating that committee. In order to call a new pastor, our PCA Book of Church Order requires us to form a search committee. This is true whether we call an external or internal candidate. The members who serve on the search committee will fill a critical role, so we are seeking qualified members who represent the diverse membership of our congregation now and in the future. We opened nominations at the meeting and the deadline is Sunday, May 27, 2018. Nomination forms with instructions are in the church lobby.

Will Liegel then spoke about how the coming change in leadership will likely affect us. He said that change naturally brings a sense of loss, that it can be difficult, but it is good when the Lord leads it. We should be excited about what lies ahead and for what God might do. It's okay to feel a sense of loss because of change, but we don't want to let Satan use that against us. So, we need to remember the God who saved us by giving up his only son. He will surely see us through this.

Finally, Craig Schwartz closed the meeting in prayer asking for God's blessing.

LPC Adult Sunday School Spring Classes 2018

Turning Points in Modern Church History

Our Christian commitments are first and foremost grounded in the Bible as God's inerrant Word. Yet, we often do not fully realize how much our understanding of the Gospel is shaped by recent historical trends, both positively and negatively. This brief series aims at highlighting some of the discussions and controversies which have led to the way we currently experience our Christian faith.

Class Schedule:

April 29	Conflict between "Modernism" and "Fundamentalism"
May 6	Neo-Evangelicalism, Lausanne and Beyond
May 20	Overcoming Communism
May 27	Explosion in the Global South
Jun 3	Changing Worship Styles

Location: Sanctuary

Teacher: Dr. William Edgar*

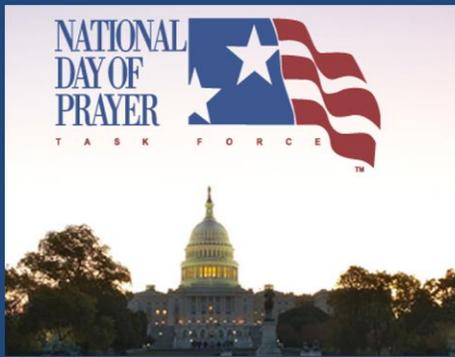
* Dr. Edgar holds the John Boyer Chair of Evangelism and Culture, and is professor of Apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary.

Update on Missions in South Central Asia

May 13

This one day class is an update on the mission work of two of our missionaries who serve with Mission to the World and whom we support through our church budget. Come and hear what the Lord is doing in this portion of the world, and learn how to pray for these servants of God.

Location: Sanctuary



Remember
to pray on
Thursday,
May 3rd



Finally, ‘final’ touches are being applied. Bathrooms are done, monitors are installed, ceiling is hung, walls are painted. The biggest job remaining is still the completion of the sprinkler installation; that work is on-going now, progressing well, and should be completed in mid-May. Other remaining work on the building will probably be finished before that.

Here’s what you’ll see happening:

- Carpeting & other flooring will be laid down beginning April 30th. This work will begin in the new admin area, move to the new nursery, then work in toward the new coffee area and lobby. All work on the floors should be finished by the end of the first week of May.
- Once areas are carpeted, we’ll begin to slowly move furnishings into the new areas. At the same time the temporary plastic wall in the lobby will be removed. Despite these milestones, we won’t be able to formally ‘occupy’ the new addition until final inspections are completed later in May; you’ll be able to ‘look’, but not ‘touch’, for a couple weeks. Nonetheless, we should be able to begin using the front entrance around the same time, probably for the May 13th Sunday service – when we can, an announcement will be made in the bulletin & by email to let you know.
- Exterior work, stucco and stone, will be finished up. Sidewalks along the front of the building and new entryways on the east & west ends will be complete & ready for use by May 1st.
- Asphalt will be laid down at the front entrance to create a smooth entryway.

A Dedication Service for the new addition is being planned, although the date has not yet been confirmed. Once firmed up, an announcement will be made in the bulletin.

As always, I thank you for your prayers, patience & support. Please continue to pray that the work will be brought to a close smoothly and safely.

- John Prall



Seniors Living in Christ

On April 18th, twenty seniors met together to celebrate "Everybody's Birthday". We enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches with salads and sides brought by everyone, and ice cream and cake for dessert. This was followed by the movie "Something the Lord Made", a true story about two doctors who pioneered modern heart surgery.

On Wednesday, May 16th, at 10:45am, we will meet to hear Mike Jesberger present another history talk called, "Valley Forge Encampment". Plan to attend and stay for lunch (hoagies). Look for the sign-up sheet to select what kind of hoagie you would prefer. Cost of the hoagie will be \$4.00. Beverages and dessert will be provided.



Short-Term Mission Trip

The following is from Philip Pennington who had the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic on a short-term mission trip with his school. Philip is a senior at Plumstead Christian School.

Dear Family and Friends,

I thank you for all your prayer and support towards my mission trip in The Dominican Republic. The trip was a great success as we made long lasting relationships with the people and helped explain the story of the Bible.

Traveling to and from the DR couldn't have went smoother. We arrived on March 16th and immediately became oriented to the culture of the country. On Sunday, we started or ministry as we presented a gospel skit and played many games with the kids from a local church. Worship at the church was an awesome experience as we were able to see that even though we speak a different language we still worship the same God. For the next three days of the trip we went to a Christian school in Santiago called Oasis Christian School where the students were taught how to speak both Spanish and English. At this school we gave five different chapels for all age groups including preschool through 12th grade. Each Chapel consisted of singing, worship, skits, crafts, and lessons to explain the story of the Bible. After we finished the five chapels for each day we would then hang out with kids and play lots of games. Working at Oasis Christian School was a highlight of the trip for me as I was able to build relationships with kids from all different age groups, especially the senior class. On Thursday we were able to experience the Dominican culture. We went to Sosua Beach and got to swim in the clear water and shop at many of their local stores on the beach. On Friday we presented two more chapels to two different schools in Santiago and from there we began our departure back to the United States.

Through this trip I was able to draw closer to God in many new ways. I was able to see the truth of the Bible played out in the lives of people who didn't know the gospel. I was also able to see the power of God by uniting our class together. It was definitely amazing to see God's work in another country. In addition, it was also a great opportunity for me to practice my Spanish. I was very blessed to go on this missions trip and to experience a different part of the world. Thank you again for all of your prayer and support for the team and I on the trip.

With gratitude,
Philip Pennington

(Pictures are available on the PCS Class of 2018 facebook page)

Food From the Heart Dinner *

Date: April 29, 2018

Number of Guests: 38

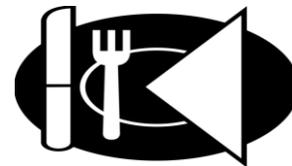
Menu: shrimp, mozzarella-tomato-olive-basil skewers, tossed salad, roll and butter, sliced ham, risotto, green beans, ice cream and cookies

Head Chefs: Rob Hand

Speaker: Ginny Whitney

Topic: Romans 15:13, "Hope"

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



May Schedule

Counters:

- 6 Tom Strohlein, Jamie Bard, Janet Younathan
- 13 Tom Strohlein, Dave & Nancy Brewer
- 20 Tom Strohlien, Dave & Nancy Brewer, Jeremiah Etherton (refresher)
- 27 Jeremiah & Amber Etherton, Albert Swartz

Thank you to the many volunteers serving this month!

Did you Know?

Sermon recordings are available on our web site:

www.lansdalepres.org

You can listen live each Sunday to *Engaging the Gospel*, a previously recorded LPC sermon, at 8:30 am on 1440 AM or 95.5 FM



Women's Spring
BREAKFAST

LADIES, PLEASE JOIN US!

SAT., MAY 19 | 9-11AM

Holiday Inn LANSDALE
1750 Bistro Room
1750 Sumneytown Pike
Kulpsville, PA

Speakers

Janet McBride
Diane Catherwood
Krista Hathway



"JOY IN THE JOURNEY"

Enjoy a fun breakfast out and get to hear from women who have learned to have joy in the journey during hard times in their lives.

\$15 Tickets available starting 4/29. See Marilyn Rudolph.



Coming this month

- 1 7:00 pm Christian Ed Board meeting
- 2 6:00 am Men’s Ministry (weekly)
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (weekly)
7:30 pm Band Rehearsal (weekly)
- 3 9:00 am Ladies Bible study (weekly)
6:30 pm Session meeting
- 4 10:30 am Friday Small Group (weekly)
- 5 7:30 am Men’s Breakfast at Henning’s
1 - 4 pm Trent & Joy (Ohanian) Faircloth
wedding celebration
- 6 9:15 am Sunday School (weekly)
10:30 am Worship Service (weekly)
- Deacons’ report and offering
5:30 pm Youth Group (weekly)
5:30 pm Small Groups (weekly)
- 7 7:15 pm Missions Committee meeting
- 12 11:00 am Memorial Service for Tom Woloski
- 13 9:15 am Combined Sunday School
- MTW Missionaries
10:30 am Worship Service
- MTW Missionary preaching
2:00 pm Meadowood
No evening groups or meetings
- 14 7:00 pm MOPS
- 16 10:45 am Seniors Living in Christ hoagie
lunch and history talk
- 17 7:30 pm Building Steering Committee
- 19 9:00 am Women’s Ministry Breakfast at
The Holiday Inn in Kulpsville
- 20 10:30 am Worship Service – Baptism
5:30 pm Children’s Ministry
- 21 7:00 pm Deacons’ Mercy Ministry meeting
- 27 1:00 pm Food from the Heart Dinner



- 1 Ruth Rush
- 4 Martha Foote
- 6 Tom Strohlein
- 7 Erin Godshall
- 9 Stephanie Miller
- 10 Kelly Carroll
- 17 Sybelle Gunnell
Sue Snell
- 19 Laura Santos
- 20 Judah Hand
- 21 Riham Halvorsen
- 22 John Hathaway
- 24 Janet Younathan
- 27 Sarah Brumbaugh
Brooke Carroll
- 28 Timothy Negley



- 5 Albert & Becky Swartz
- 15 Bill & Myrt Jones
- 19 James & Martha Gunnell
Tom & Lydia Keane
Henry & Ginny Whitney
- 21 Scott & Shirley Wilson
- 23 Jeff & Jennifer Gray
- 26 Jamie & Sherrie Bard
- 30 Matt & Riham Halvorsen

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.