

THE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

FROM THE PASTOR

Wednesday, February 22 marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day period of spiritual preparation before Easter. Last year during Lent our church embarked on a spiritual adventure. Sixty of you agreed to pray on your own every day for 40 days, using prayer exercises from the book Unbinding Your Heart by Martha Grace Reese, and then meet with a prayer partner once a week to discuss your experiences. Some people had a hard time getting started and very few managed to pray every single day. Still, it was a transforming experience for many, and so our officers decided to try it again this year, using the same exercises.

We will start signing people up to participate next week. If you struggled with the exercises last time, you might want to give it another try. In fact, we all might do a better job of it

the second time around. Whether you are a complete beginner or a seasoned “pray-er,” there is much to be gained in this journey. Here’s what people said last year:

“I was scared at the beginning. I thought it was going to be hard to pray, that I would feel stupid... I wouldn’t get anything out of it... But the prayers came easier and easier and I learned that when I pray, I didn’t always get the response I was looking or hoping for, but I always got something. And I could take that something and run with it, or burrow back into my I-don’t-pray hole and consider it nonsense. I chose to run with it, and because I did, got a lot out of the 40 days.”

“My prayer partner and I learned a lot about each other... We met once and did the rest by phone... We learned how to work together, how to put our

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUES. -FRI.
9:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.

ideas into prayers, and how rereading the Bible we saw many things better.”

“I always thought the Bible was boring. . . (but not anymore).”

“In the past I’ve had problems reading the Bible. The language is so sexist; there are parts (that are so vengeful and violent). So I haven’t read my Bible in ages.

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From the Pastor (continued)

This exercise was very helpful in getting me back to some of those wonderful passages that remind us of God's love and faithfulness."

"My prayers stopped being all about me, and started being about the person I was praying for..."

"I felt a change in my personality. The practice of praying for other people around me changed my orientation... When I pray, I have a better attitude."

"The best thing (was) to be in silence, to understand that prayer is not just petition but is also time to be in God's presence, time to listen for God and time to open one's spirit to God's spirit..."

I hope you will consider joining us in this 40-Day Journey with God. You can keep your same prayer partner, or find someone new. It can be a family member, friend outside the church, or a friend inside the church. If you are new, we will find a partner for you, if you wish. This year we will also offer a weekly group check-in, in addition to or instead of having a prayer partner. If you need a book, we will order one for you.

So put away your excuses and open your hearts for a chance to deepen your connection with God and your neighbors.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Debra Given

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day. The Children of Uganda will join us in Worship this day.

Sunday, February 12 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day. A luncheon and Annual Meeting will follow.

Sunday, February 19 10:30 a.m. —Transfiguration of the Lord, Service for the Lord's Day,

Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday Information will follow

Sunday, February 26 10:30AM Service for the Lord's Day 1st Sunday in Lent and the beginning of 40 Days of Prayer.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Janet Baur
9 Betsy Voreacos
14 Gretchen Harders
21 Anne Stebbins
Jane Wilson
23 Molly Voreacos
27 Deanna Castro

**USHER SCHEDULE FOR
FEBRUARY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
February 5	Jeannie Choe, Hwan Hee Kang, Roberta Toolen
February 12	Susan Dindial, Vicky Li & Karen Peters
February 19	Fara Razafy, Lisa & Joe VanDeWeert
February 26	Chris Choe, Lillian McNaughton & Richard Stenken

**OFFERING COUNTERS
FOR
FEBRUARY**

February 5 Pete Shanno & Olivia Taylor
 February 12 Anne Stebbins & Jonathan Phillips
 February 19 Fumio Ito & Ginny Brown
 February 26 Hyung Kune Shim & Hiroshi Muto

DEACON'S RE-ORGANIZATION FOR 2012

The **Board of Deacons** held its reorganization meeting in January. They elected Jennifer Carriel to serve as **Moderator** for the year 2012, Fara Razafy to serve as Secretary, Hwan Hee Kang as the Representative to the Nominating Committee, and Sonia Solano to serve as the Memorial Service Coordinator and Food Coordinator. They also reviewed Deacon's policies and procedures and made new "Flock" assignments. Plan to "Meet Your Deacon" at the luncheon on February 12 during the Annual Meeting.

Let's Get Together for a . . .

CHILI SUPPER & SQUARE DANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 6 p.m. Supper, 7 p.m. Dancing begins in Elmore Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 150 E. Palisade Ave, Englewood. You are invited to the Corn Bread and Chili Supper at 6 p.m. (reservations and donations appreciated) and it is only \$2 for the Square Dance. Call 201-568-7373 Ext. 307 or sign up in Entry Room at our church. Debra Given is the square dance caller for the evening and Tom Phillips will play fiddle with Kevin Krajyck on guitar. Put on your comfortable shoes and join us for a fun time! If you do-si-so, line dance, enjoy live music, or just enjoy watching others dance, then come on-a-round and join the very young to much older folks for a great evening. (Child care provided for the little ones by reservation!)



Address Correction Requested

Presbyterian Church in Leonia
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Leonia, NJ 07605

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REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To all committee chairs, please call or email (201-944-1358 or secretaryleonia@yahoo.com) the church office with the names of the people on your committee as soon as possible. It is also important that you call or email the church office with meeting dates, and any planned activities or special events. I would like to keep the church calendar as current as possible.

Thank you,
Michele Ring

ANNUAL REPORTS AND DIRECTORIES

If you have not picked up the 2012 Annual Report or your new 2012 church directory, please do so. They are located in the Entry Room. Please take one per family. If you need additional copies, please call the church office 201-944-1358.

Thank you, Michele Ring

SESSION NOTES

The regular session meeting on January 10 began with prayer and the annual reorganization. The new committee appointments are:

Asian Ministry	Nancy Salvati and Fumio Ito
Budget & Finance	Ginny Brown
Christian Education	Linda McGarry and Jonathan Phillips
Endowment	David Voreacos
Fellowship	Karen Peters
Membership & Outreach	Joyce Hamlin
Mission & Stewardship	Susan Shanno
Nominating	Leah Puzzo
Personnel	Leah Puzzo
Property	Jack Peters and Pete Shanno
Worship	Jane Wilson

David Voreacos was elected Clerk of Session. Anne Stebbins will be our representative to Presbytery, Pete Shanno will represent us on Oelhaf House Committee and Joyce Hamline will be the chair of the Retreat Committee.

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 Hyung Kune Shim for keeping it up-to-date and filled with ready-to-use information.)



*If you have not signed up for **CHANCEL FLOWERS** for a specific Sunday, please do so by signing up on the Flower Calendar in the Entry Room. If you live out of town and would like to donate flowers for a loved one, anniversary, birthday or an other special occasion, please call Jane Wilson (201-947-1688) or the church office (201-944-1358).*

