

The Messenger

Newsletter of Lebanon Reformed Church

Winter 2014

Friends,

I can recall one of our first visits to Lebanon Boro. It was for the 4th of July parade. We parked at the train station and Deb and I walked with our two little daughters; Erika holding Debs hand and Colleen on my back down the hill and looked for a good viewing area mid way along Brunswick Avenue. As you all know it gets pretty crowded in town on the 4th of July so, seating was limited. Then, one of the property owners invited us to sit on his lawn to watch the parade. This rare gesture of kindness and hospitality came to define for my family and I the friendliness of the residents of Lebanon.

That was almost thirty parades ago. Much has happened during that time; Erika finished Law School this year, and will be taking the Bar Exam this month. Colleen is busy as a veterinary assistant and is also preparing for the state Veterinarian Assistant Exam in April. And, since this past June, Deb and I have continued to develop a growing relationship with the folks here at the Lebanon Reformed Church resulting in transferring our membership of 30 years from our former church and answering God's call through the love of the congregation as well as in my heart to be the Pastor.

God's call has been one of excitement and awe. We do believe that the providential hand of God has been preparing the way for Deb and I to come to Lebanon since that 4th of July parade nearly thirty years ago.

Peace,
Pastor Tom

Welcome New LRC Members...



From Left to Right – Jamie DeJesus, Nancy McCauley, Steven Steeley, Robert Fordera, Tom Jones and Deb Jones

The Season of Lent

Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. *John 8:12*

Ash Wednesday is the official beginning of the Lenten season. It is a day of prayer and public confession of sins. In some churches the sign of the cross is made with ashes on the foreheads of believers. The early Israelites took the ashes from burnt offerings, mixed them with water, and sprinkled them over unclean persons (sinners) and their belongings (Numbers 19:17-18). In the third century, the church began the custom of burning the branches used on Palm Sunday; saving the ashes and marking sinners, such as robbers and murderers with these ashes. Out of sympathy, family and friends of these 'marked' persons began using the ashes also.

Palm or Passion Sunday is a day of change from the joyful celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the solemn knowledge of what lies ahead for him in the coming week. The custom of waving olive twigs in the procession began in the fourth century. It was not until about 400 years later that palm branches were first used, and they continue to be used today.

Maundy Thursday (from the Latin word "mandatum" or "commandment") focuses on the Lord's Supper and the new commandment to love one another.

Good Friday was probably first called God's Friday. On this day we remember Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

Easter and the seven weeks following is the oldest, celebrated liturgical season of the church year. The season of Easter ends with the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.

2014 Lenten Series Dates/Times

Date	Time	Event
March 5	7:30 pm	Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service will be March 5 at the Zion Lutheran Church, Church St., Oldwick.
March 12	6:30pm	Soup & Learning Ecumenical Lenten Series @ Whitehouse United Methodist Church
March 19	6:30pm	Soup & Learning Ecumenical Lenten Series @ Clinton United Methodist Church
March 26	6:30pm	Soup & Learning Ecumenical Lenten Series @ Stanton Reformed Church
April 2	6:30pm	Soup & Learning Ecumenical Lenten Series @ Lebanon Reformed Church
April 9	6:30pm	Soup & Learning Ecumenical Lenten Series @ Cokesbury United Methodist Church
April 17	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Lebanon Reformed Church
April 20	6:30am	EASTER Sunrise Service @ Round Valley Youth Center
April 20	11:00am	EASTER Sunday Service at Lebanon Reformed Church

Please note LRC will be hosting the Ecumenical Lenten Service on April 2nd at 6:30 pm. We will have homemade soups and desserts.

We are anticipating approximately 60 guests, therefore we will need volunteers to help set-up fellowship hall and bring soups/desserts. Watch for the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. Questions? Ask Andrea and Michelle.

Let's get together and enjoy fellowship and a word from God.

What's Happening in Christian Education

(each Sunday 9:45-10:45am)

Children's Classes:

Veronica's Class (5th-8th grade):

Since the beginning of the year the children have been discussing God's covenant promises with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and Moses.

In the weeks to come, they will focus on the covenant of the chosen people, God's method to choose, call, and commission people who will carry his blessing to others. God always intended that those who were welcomed into his covenant would extend the welcome to others. They will discuss further - Moses, Pentecost, the disciples, and the woman at the well.

Melanie's Class (4yrs - 4th grade):

The children have had lessons and activities on the Good Sheppard, Noah's Ark, John the Baptist and in the coming weeks will continue to focus on the Gospel of John with emphasis on 1 John, the Christians must have and display love.

Adult Bible Study:

Beginning on February 16, the Wednesday evening Share Group will now meet every Sunday at 9:45am in the Skunk House. Rod and Jaime will alternate as moderators. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Inclement Weather

If Sunday School classes are canceled due to inclement weather the announcement will be posted on LRC's home page (www.lebanonreformedchurch.org) by 8AM Sunday morning or as early as the 7PM the night before.

2013/2014 Christian Ed/Adult Bible Study Calendar

September 22, 2013	First Day of Classes
November 10, 2013	No Classes, but Children sing with the Bell Choir
December 1, 2013	No Classes – Thanksgiving Break
December 22, 2013	Children’s Christmas Drama
December 29, 2014	No Classes – Christmas Break
February 16, 2014	Adult Bible Study, but <u>No</u> Children’s Classes
April 20, 2014	No Classes – Easter
May 11, 2014	No Classes – Mother’s Day
May 25, 2014	No Classes – Memorial Day
June 8, 2014	Last Day of Classes, Children’s Drama & Outdoor Picnic



Date	Activity
February 22 – 8:30 AM	Leadership Class for Consistory
March 5	Ash Wednesday – First Day of Lent
March 8 – 8:30 AM	Consistory Retreat
April 2 - 6:30-9:00PM (set-up 5 PM)	LRC hosts Lenten Soup & Learning Series
April 4 & 5	Women’s Retreat at Harvey Cedars
April 12 – noon-4pm (tentative date)	Community Book/Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall
April 17 – 7PM	Maundy Thursday Service at LRC
April 20 – 11AM	Easter Sunday Service at LRC
May 4 – 12PM	LRC’s annual soup and salad luncheon
May 5 & 6 – 5-8PM	LRC to host and supply dinner for Family Promise families staying overnight at Rockaway Reformed Church
May 28 – 6:30-8PM	Community volleyball begins
June 8 – 11AM	Last Day of Sunday School Classes, Children’s Drama, and Outdoor Picnic
June 15	Worship changes to 10AM for summer

On-going:

- Every Third Sunday of Month – Collection for Open Cupboard Food Pantry
- Every Monday @ 7PM- Bell Choir
- Every Thursday @ 7PM- Chancel Choir
- Each Sunday @ 9:45AM – Christian Ed and Adult Bible Study

Mission and Ministry

Grace Reformed Church

Donations of gently used clothing and household items can be placed in the storage shed anytime of the year. Please see Melanie or Dale for the key. Your donations go to needy people in the Newark community and are also donated overseas to Haiti.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Open Cupboard Food Pantry Ministry

The next collection is **Sunday, March 16**. Put all non-perishable donations in the brown basket located in the rear of the church. Please speak to Melanie Ikenson or Dale Webb with any questions.

Family Promise of Hunterdon Country

Family Promise is a non-profit organization of local congregations that minister to the needs of homeless women and families. The network provides shelter, sustenance, and support in caring settings while assisting its guests in resolving their homelessness. Throughout the year, LRC serves as a support congregation to the hosting congregation; Rockaway Reformed Church of Whitehouse (RRC). While the families are staying at Rockaway, LRC volunteers prepare meals and enjoy a family style sit-down dinner with the Family Promise guests and their children. Next scheduled dates are May 5 & 6 from 5-8PM.

Reflecting back on 2013, below is a list of activities the church participated in...

January	Family Promise Host & provide dinner
February	Fitness Class
March	Fitness Class Community Soup, Stew, Chili Dinner
April	Family Promise Host/Dinner
May – August	Community Volleyball
June	Military Collection at Shoprite Community Movie Night Fire & EMT Appreciate Sunday
July	VBS Float in Parade
July – August	Vacation Bible School
August	Grace Reformed Mission Trip Ice Cream Social
September	Book Sale Family Promise Host/Dinner
October	Crop Walk Halloween Rest Stop
November	Spaghetti Dinner Operation Christmas Child Harvest Luncheon
December	Family Promise Host & provide dinner Christmas cards to military Christmas caroling Family Promise Giving Tree

Many of these programs will continue in 2014 and some new ones have been added, so look for information to come in upcoming bulletins on how you can get involved.



April 4-5, 2014 Women at the Crossroads- 30th annual women's retreat held at Harvey Cedars Conference Center, LBI. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in fellowship hall for more info.

About Us



Pastor

Tom E. Jones

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

Vice President of Consistory- Andrea Hoffman

Financial Secretary- Scott Hoffman

COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds - Bud Van Doren & Deana Van Doren

Christian Education - Melanie Ikenson

Community Outreach: Ginger Twardy

Hospitality & Fellowship - Michelle Quinn

Fellowship Hour: Gussie Moore

Mission Interpretation: Tom Jones

Music & Worship - Rod Robinson

Staff Ministries: Valerie Porfano

Stewardship & Finance: Steve Slutter

DIACONAL MINISTRIES

Family Promise of Hunterdon County - Ginger Twardy & Michelle Quinn

Grace Reformed Church - Dale Webb & Melanie Ikenson

Open Arms - Ginger Twardy

Open Cupboard Food Pantry - Melanie Ikenson & Dale Webb

Missions & Benevolence - Deana Van Doren

STAFF

Church Administrator- Kathy Wilmott

Director of Music Dorothy Hoeflinger

Nursery Coordinator- Melanie Ikenson,

Treasurer- Nancy Bodyl

Webmasters: Deana Van Doren & Kathy Wilmott

Lebanon Reformed Church

100 Brunswick Ave, Lebanon, NJ 08833

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www.lebanonreformedchurch.org

Tom E. Jones, Pastor

Join us for Worship

Sunday 11:00 AM

Fellowship 12:00 PM

The Messenger is a publication for the families and friends of Lebanon Reformed Church.

Editor – Deana Van Doren