

Parish Happenings

April 2016

FROM PASTOR CHAD



...we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running – and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it.
Hebrews 12:1b-2a. *The Message*

Event Countdown

I wake up each morning with this countdown on my mind. Yes, I'm looking forward to running and completing the Big Sur Marathon and yes I'm looking forward to being free of the training grind, but the greatest weight on my mind is the start of our Sabbatical time.

April 24th will mark the beginning of that time rather dramatically: the worship schedule here at LVPC will change. Everything still begins at 10 a.m., but instead of starting in the sanctuary we'll start with coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall and move to the sanctuary for worship. There will also be some changes in worship leadership, but the schedule change will serve as an outward sign and a constant reminder that we are taking part in a different rhythm, that our reboot is in progress, and a special attentiveness to the Spirit is required.

I, too, will be experiencing different rhythms, a sort of reboot, and a time of special attentiveness to the Spirit. As I write this article I continue to pray and hope that when our Sabbatical time is over we can begin to reap the full benefit of our attentiveness to how God is calling us forward in ministry together.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

As you are aware, there are many different ways to be involved in our vibrant congregation. It is always my hope, but in the coming sabbatical time it is my particular hope, that more of us will engage in the ongoing work of our church. This will be a great opportunity for each of us to explore how God is calling us to be more a part of the LVPC community.

Ultimately if we are to truly be a Christian community we must embrace Jesus' command that we "love one another." To love one another we must *know* one another and the best way to do *know* one another is an investment of time. My closest friendships were mostly established during my college years and while working at summer camp. Why then? Well, because I had time and the gift of time is an opportunity to invest in *knowing* others. The power of Christian community is only really discovered when we make a commitment to carve time out of our schedule for *knowing* and thus loving others.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

If you've been around LVPC a while I want to challenge you to find a new area of church life where you can invest some time: take a risk and be part of something that requires you to *know* some of the newer members of our community.

If you are relatively new then start small, but do seek and listen to how God is calling you to be engaged in our community life: join in the work of the mission team, take part in Spiritual formation, drop in on the Saturday morning Men's Fellowship and bible study (no prior knowledge required), or the women's circle, or Parish Life activities.

Coffee and Conversation

And nearly everyone can sign up to participate in our coffee time: be on one of our four teams and once a month get to know each other by setting up or cleaning up and bringing something to share.

Keep the Pace

For a brief explanation and ongoing updates related to our sabbatical time you can go to my former Blog site now devoted to our sabbatical time at:

<https://preachingtogether.wordpress.com>

Blessings,



WORSHIP

New Worship Time Coming!

Just a reminder that starting April 24th, our worship service will begin at 11 a.m. with coffee and conversation starting at 10 a.m.

BIO OF STEFANIE MUNTZEL



Rev. Stefanie Muntzel was ordained in Newton Presbytery in

October 2013 as the part-time stated supply pastor of Musconetcong Valley Presbyterian Church in Hampton, NJ. She joined the staff of Newton Presbytery in February 2014 and coordinates the Resourcing Center.

Stefanie has been blessed to have worked in a variety of ministry settings. Prior to graduating from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 2002, her experience included college ministry with the PC (USA), youth ministry leadership in New York City, and youth ministry and new church development in New Jersey. Beginning in 2004 Stefanie served as Director of Christian Education and Mission at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Scranton, PA and for eight years enjoyed the

wide range of duties this role entailed.

Stefanie is a lifelong Presbyterian — her mother is a retired Presbyterian pastor and her father a retired ethics professor. She currently lives just outside Califon with her husband Rev. Rich Gelson, son Crosby (12) and step-daughters Rebecca (14) and Anna (17). She is an avid walker of her dog Dinah. She is a fan of the outdoors, music and story. She speaks German well and is constantly struggling to tame her curly, willful hair. Above all, she is a passionate witness to the Good News of the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

FROM NANCY KNIGHT

Dear LVPC friends,

David, the rest of our family, and I would all like to thank you for your many prayers, cards, and caring messages over the past months. When my mother, Marion Vandewater, went to be with my brother Pete, and his wife, Barbara, they said their mailbox had never been so full of letters and cards! They had a big bulletin board in mom's bedroom, and it was covered with your cards and letters. Mom did enjoy getting mail, and your thoughts and prayers helped sustain her through her illness. We also greatly appreciate all of the sympathy cards and online messages as we mourn and remember her.

We invite you to attend mom's memorial service at Lower Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 9th at 11 a.m., with a reception following in the Parish Hall. She left written instructions that it is to be a time of "Celebration." We do celebrate her life, and that she has a loving church family. We praise God for the gift of Jesus, and for Eternal Life, which she is now enjoying.

Love in Christ, Nancy Knight

ASP HAPPENINGS**Car Wash!**

We will holding a fundraising car wash in the church parking lot on April 24th at 12:30 p.m. Come out and get your car washed or get your hands wet and help do the washing!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HELP

We are looking for people young and old to help with Coffee & Conversation once a month. We are starting groups of 4 with a leader in each group to set up and clean up. Come help keep our Coffee hour running smoothly by signing up to be in one of these groups. I will organize them with 1 person in charge. Everyone can still help by bringing food or drink to share when you can. I hope we can work this out so we can continue this wonderful extension of Sunday service. Please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact me as soon as possible. Thanks!

Lisa Coffaro
coffaro423@comcast.net
 973-713-4870

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Spring is here and it's time to start gardening. We still have 6 beds available in our community garden. Each bed is \$25. Registration is necessary. Registration form and guidelines can be found on the LVPC website under the Mission tab

at www.lowervalley.org or you can call the office to have one mailed to you. If you have questions about the garden please contact Karen Newman at karennewman@embarqmail.com

SPIRITUAL FORMATION**Evening Circle**

Women's Evening Circle Bible Study will meet Wednesday, April 13th, 7 p.m. in the Getz Library. We will cover Lesson 3 "Covenants and God's Enduring Faithfulness", from the Horizon's Bible Study "Recognizing Paul". Call Nancy Knight 908-537-4347 with any questions.

MISSION NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Opportunities

- We are all set for another shift at Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick. It is on April 9th from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Please let Abby Ernst know if you're interested. Thanks!
- We have committed our church to volunteer on July 23rd from 10:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Phillipsburg Soup Kitchen. We need 10-12 people ages 11 and up. If you are interested, please contact Madeleine Argue or anyone on the Mission Team.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is an email distribution group of people from our LVPC family. Prayer requests are forwarded to Wendy Garcia and then Wendy forwards the prayer to the entire group. If you would like your email address added to the Prayer Chain, please send Wendy an email at kwgarcia@msn.com.

G.i.F.T

Mark your calendars and be ready to participate in G.i.F.T! The dates are July 10 - 14 in the evening. More information will follow in the future.





Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

“I have seen the Lord”

John 20:18

Get the newsletter via e-mail so you can enjoy the full color version and help us cut down on paper and postage costs! Call or e-mail Claudia in the office — 832-2933 or lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com

Pastor Chad's Contact info:

Cell phone: 892.0044

E-mail: revchadrodgers@gmail.com

Church Info:

Claudia Gilbert: Church Administrator

Phone: 908-832-2933

E-mail: lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com

Website: www.lowervalley.org

Office hours: W-F, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Session Members

Stephanie Donlon: 537-2604/stephaniedonlon@yahoo.com

Abby Ernst: 439-3549/abigailernst@gmail.com

Terry Hoffman: 689-7646/tbeehoffman@aol.com

Warren Newman: 638-4332/newmanwj@cdmsmith.com

Kim Rodgers: 892-0141/chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com

Hunter Wilson: (703) 304-1445/hunter22wilson@gmail.com

Karen Newman (clerk): 638-4332/karennewman@embarqmail.com

Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers
April 3	Stephanie Donlon	Carol and Anthony Casale	Stephanie Donlon Lisa Coffaro Warren Newman Terry Hoffman
April 10	Judy Eckwielen	Lisa Coffaro Isabel Roppolo	
April 17 — Family Worship	Dick Kline	Janet and Gary Kipp	
April 24	Abby Ernst	Cindy and Tim O'Keefe	
May 1	Kim Rodgers	Judy Eckwielen Richard Fincher	OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN
May 8	Warren Newman	Marilyn and Al El-Zahr	
May 15	Rachel Gast	Madeleine Argue Stuart Solewater	
May 22	Terry Hoffman	Rich Ehrlich OPEN	
May 29 — Family Worship	Christina Wilson	Abby and Ken Ernst	

**If you are able to serve in an OPEN spot,
please let Claudia know. Thanks!!**

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church
445 County Road 513
Califon, NJ 07830
April 2016

The Vision of our Church

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is a community of believers who worship God in word and deed, nurture each other through prayer, friendship, and education, and seek to serve others in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Our four areas of ministry are faith development, caring for each other, outreach ministry and supporting ministry.