

Parish Happenings

FEBRUARY 2013

Some of you are aware that I'm a big fan of *The Colbert Report*. "How is this possible?" you ask, "he doesn't even have a television or cable!" Due to a little thing called the internet I can cheat from time to time. And, even if I had a Television, I wouldn't be able to stay up until 11:30 p.m. when the show airs.

Those of you who follow me on Facebook may also be aware that Kim and I had a chance to go to a taping of the show back in December (It was super fun and the tickets are free, but it does help to have a Twitter account if you want to get tickets.)

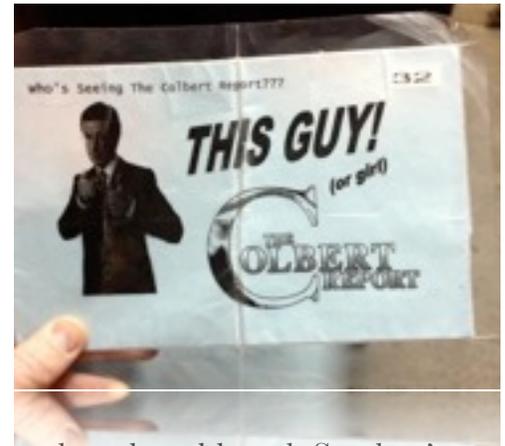
While watching the taping, when I wasn't laughing, it became very clear that although Stephen's personality and incredible talent make the show special he doesn't come close to pulling it off alone. I've also heard Terry Gross interview Colbert several times, on *Fresh Air*, and in at least one of the interviews he makes it very clear that the writers on his show are incredible and the rest of his staff is top notch.

My first thought on this is wouldn't it be fun to be part of the team of writers working with Stephen Colbert. Monday through Thursday they scramble for ideas to string together for an early evening taping. They've got to come up with stuff that is timely, witty, funny, biting, smart, and poignant in enough time for a live evening taping and then get it edited by air time at 11:30. One guy can't find all the news clips and come up with all the one liners and smart commentary by himself - I don't care how talented he is, this is just not possible.

Clearly the staff of this show each have gifts for humor, political and social commentary, and satire that compliment Stephen. By now they must know one another's strengths and weaknesses. It is also clear they've got a common goal and vision for making the show what it is. Not to mention these must simply be some very smart and very funny people because I laugh out loud during every show I watch.

So, what does all this have to do with us here at LVPC? Everything I guess. I'm sure among the writing staff at *The Colbert Report* there is the normal drama that inevitably occurs when you get a group of creative, headstrong, people together (it is far from a utopian work place I'm sure), but my vision for being a pastor is something similar to what makes that show so good. My emphasis being, not on the pastor's personality, but the collaborative effort that makes it happen.

Everything we do at LVPC should come together like a taping of *The Colbert Report*. Everything should leverage our collective gifts. Whether it is producing a worship service or a community garden, everything is a team activity that requires many gifts. No one should be "going it alone" in any aspect of our life together.



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When I say *everything* I mean *everything* — congregational care, worship, study, VBS, ASP, Sunday School, building upkeep, reaching out to the community, mission far and near, raising children, loving the unloveable, hospitality — should be the result of putting our passions and gifts together to faithfully follow Christ. We've got a program to produce each and every day and it takes all the different gifts and talents of all of us.

It starts with a common mission. I think there is no better place to start than our worship. It is one thing we can count on that we all participate in together. What gifts do you bring to our worship? What artistic gifts (writing, dancing, drama, music, drawing, painting) will you share with us? What new vision do you have for how we pray, read scripture, share our stories, or hear the sermon do you have? Becoming God's Spirit-led church may begin with worship together, but who knows what kind of relationships, partnerships, or new initiatives will begin to

blossom and grow from our shared worship.



Evening Circle

The next meeting of the Women's Evening Circle will be Wednesday, Feb. 20th at 7 p.m. in the Getz Library. We will be continuing in the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study about the General Epistles (1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John, and Jude). The lesson will be based on 1 Peter 2:11-25. If you are bringing your youth to The Channel, this is a good time to see what you've been missing! Join us for light refreshments, interesting discussion, prayer and fellowship. Joni Nodes plans to lead the lesson, and Eleanor Raposo and Nancy Knight will provide refreshments. Call Joni at 236-7996 or Nancy at 537-4347 for more information (in bad weather the meeting may be postponed or cancelled).

Help Save a Tree

Did you know that you can receive this newsletter via e-mail? If you are interested in

helping us save paper and postage please consider having the newsletter sent to you electronically. E-mail to: lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com and ask to be signed up. Also, the newsletter is available on our church website: www.lowervalley.org.

Fellowship Hosts Needed

We are in need of volunteers to host coffee and conversation. There will be a sign up sheet in the kitchen each Sunday. Host alone or with friends! Expenses can be reimbursed. If you have questions, contact Lisa Coffaro at coffaro423@comcast.net or 832-0409.

Church Directory

If you weren't able to have your photo taken at the church, please send a photo of yourself to Claudia for the church directory. **The deadline is February 15.** Please e-mail a good quality .jpg file to lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com. If you are unable to email it please drop the photo off to the office and we will scan it and then return it. Thanks.

Community Garden

Come Garden With Your Friends and Neighbors!

We will again be hosting a community garden open to the public. Last year was a huge success! For planning purposes, we need to know approximately how many people would be interested in renting a 4' X 8' raised bed. There is a \$25 fee per bed. We are hoping to open the garden by the end of March



so we can all get our peas and lettuce in early.

If you are interested in participating, please email Claudia at lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com no later than February 22nd. We must have an estimate of participants so we can plan accordingly.

More information about this year's garden to come!

Offering Envelopes

Please remember to pick up your 2013 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex.

Summer at Camp Johnsonburg

Camp Johnsonburg, your Presbyterian summer camp, is now accepting registrations for summer 2013. We have one-week programs for kids from grades k-12. To learn more about this great place where

kids have fun and are valued for the unique individuals they are, please visit our website:

www.campjburg.org.

Camp Johnsonburg is now accepting applications for their 2013 summer staff. Positions available include counselors (18+ and a year out of high school), lifeguards, waterfront director, naturalist, and kitchen staff. For more information, or for an application, please email staff@campjburg.org.

Spiritual Formation of Children

Sunday School classes are in full swing in 2013. The Pre-K-1 class is beginning to learn The Lord's Prayer, with illustrations as a helpful guide. Likewise, the High School class is also focusing on prayer. They are considering the many ways to incorporate prayer into their own lives. The 4-5 grade class discussed worship this past week. They considered how worship changes a person over time, and how worship challenges us to work for change in the world. Following are some ideas class members thought they could do effectively: The world needs peace and we can do this by being kind to everyone, helping those in need, and opposing war. The world needs attention to the environment and we can do this by taking shorter showers, disposing of trash in a responsible way, turning off lights, and planting trees. The world needs better care of pets and we can do this by feeding them, providing shelter for them, taking them to the vet when they are hurt.

The Spiritual Formation Committee is considering the idea of a multigenerational play for the next Christmas season. Adults and teens are invited to join in the fun with the children of our congregation. If you have dreamed of doing a bit of acting, this is your opportunity. Adults and teens are encouraged to express their interest to Sue Hostler or Kim Rodgers.

The Channel and The Journey continue to meet weekly on Wednesday and Sunday evenings respectively. It is never too late to join one of these groups as they enjoy fellowship and learn together. The latest Game Night was successful with several families participating, lots of games, and good food. Plan on joining this group for some old fashioned fun.

The Spiritual Formation Committee for Children is reorganizing at this time. If you have an interest in the children of our church and would like to be a member of the committee, please contact Kim Rodgers.

Next Family Game Night is Friday, February 22nd — please join us!!

Ash Wednesday Service

Once again we will be joining together with Fairmount Presbyterian Church for an Ash Wednesday Service to be held here at LVPC on February 13th at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

ASP Soup Fundraiser

The congregation can help the people going on the ASP trip by making and purchasing soup.

For the next couple of months we will be looking for volunteers to make soup, 2 different kinds a week. And, we will be selling it during coffee and conversation.

Large size will be \$10.00. Small size will be \$5.00. The containers will be provided by the church. If you are interested in making soup please contact Lisa Coffaro: coffaro423@comcast.net or 832-0409. All the money will go towards the cost of the trip for each person going. People going on the trip are encouraged to make the soups but anyone can volunteer.

LVPC Sponsors a Student at Newark Christian School!

As a result of funds raised at the 2011 Alternative Gift Fair (AGF), our church was able to sponsor a student at Newark Christian School, part of World Impact, Inc. According to their website, the school was founded in 1984. It currently has students from kindergarten through seventh grade; the school reaches out to those in the greater Newark area who could not normally afford a private school education.



After the 2012 AGF, the Mission Committee voted to use \$500 from undesignated congregational mission giving to continue to sponsor the same student during this

school year. His name is **Eric Mateo**, and he is in 6th grade. His teacher wrote: "Eric is diligent and enthusiastic about his academics. He is always joyful and kind to his classmates. He loves the Lord and shows a strong desire to grow in his faith." There are photos of Eric on the bulletin board in the back hallway of the church, and his thank you letter is also posted.

The Newark Christian School has a Missions Outreach Team that includes Eric. The team visits churches and can provide special music during a service, or present a skit that may go along with a sermon. They can also visit Sunday school classes. The Executive Director, Dr. Fred Clark, is willing to come to speak to us. Sunday School children or members of our church may write to Eric, too. The Mission Committee members are excited that we

have opportunities to get to know Eric in 2013 as we partner with the Newark Christian School in ministering to the urban poor.

This photo shows Eric on a field trip at Merrill Creek in Sept. 2012, holding a Monarch butterfly that the group tagged and released. In the past, two butterflies tagged at Merrill Creek have been found in their winter roosting place in Mexico!

Trip to Kenya

In 2011 many of you were hosts to James and Edmond from our Sister Presbytery in Nairobi, Kenya. Many members of Newton Presbytery have visited Kenya over the last several years, including our Interim Pastor Carie Morgan. Don McCord and other Presbytery members are putting together another "expedition" to Kenya, from June 27 to July 15, 2013.

There may be ten people going, and **you** could be one of them! Our Mission Committee has designated funds to help with the cost. Besides visiting our friends in Nairobi, the trip may include a 4-5 day Bible School program at Children's Home (an orphanage) near Murang'a, some work on construction of a congregation in the Partnership, working on a Prayer Shawl ministry, some volunteer time with the Kasasule Rural Health Centre, speaking opportunities at several congregations, and a couple of days of "free time" for shopping, a safari outing, and other sightseeing. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity of a lifetime, please contact Pastor Chad, Lyn Magee, or Nancy Knight. Don McCord would like a "tentative commitment" by March 1.

Session Members

Here is a list of our current session members and their phone numbers:

Lisa Coffaro: 832-0409

John Leddie: 537-9622

Stephanie Donlon: 537-2604

Lyn Magee: 832-2142

Wendy Garcia: 867-7186

Kim Rodgers: 832-0956

Terry Hoffman: 689-7646

Warren Newman: 638-4332

May Saxton (clerk): 537-4963

Taize Service

On February 10th please join our High School Students in an evening of prayer and reflection through the music of Taize at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 316 Old Allerton Road. For more information or if you just want to ride along with us, please call Pastor Chad.

February 2013

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 Fellowship: 11 a.m. Celebration Chimes Practice: 11:30 a.m. Joyful Noise Ringers Practice: 12 p.m.	4 Adult Bells: 7:15 p.m.	5 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL Worship Committee Mtg: 7 p.m., GL	6 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH	7	8	9
10 Fellowship: 11 a.m. Celebration Chimes Practice: 11:30 a.m. Joyful Noise Ringers Practice: 12 p.m. Journey: 6 -8:30p.m., Chad and Kim's home	11 Adult Bells: 7:15 p.m.	12 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	13 Ash Wednesday Service: 7 p.m., S	14	15	16
17 Family Worship Fellowship: 11 a.m. Celebration Chimes Practice: 11:30 a.m. Joyful Noise Ringers Practice: 12 p.m. Journey: 6 p.m., Chad and Kim's home	18 Adult Bells: 7:15 p.m.	18 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL Session: 7 p.m., GL	19 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH Evening Circle: 7 p.m., GL	21	22 Family Game Night: 5 p.m. PH	23
24 Fellowship: 11 a.m. Celebration Chimes Practice: 11:30 a.m. Joyful Noise Ringers Practice: 12 p.m. Journey: 6 p.m., Chad and Kim's home	25 Adult Bells: 7:15 p.m.	26	27	28		

Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship Host(s)
February 3	Nancy Knight	Terry Hoffman Rich Ehrlich	Linda Stetler Renee Ollerenshaw Warren Newman May Saxton	Harris
February 10	Joni Nodes	Renee and Jeff Ollerenshaw		TBD
February 17 Family Worship	May Saxton	Marilyn and Al El-Zahr		Donlon
February 24	Warren Newman	Cindy and Tim O'Keefe		TBD
March 3	Sue Huntington	Stephanie and Jeff Donlon	Sue Huntington TBD TBD TBD	McKinnon/Garcia
March 10 Family Worship	TBD	Lisa and Chris Coffaro		TBD
March 17	TBD	Donna and John Leddie		Haggerty
March 24 Palm Sunday	Dick Kline	Nancy and David Knight		TBD
March 31 Easter Sunday Family Worship	TBD	Karen and Warren Newman		

**If you are able to serve in one of the TBD spots, please let
Claudia in the office know. Thanks!**

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church
445 County Road 513
Califon, NJ 07830
February 2013

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.