

From Pastor Chad

Life Together

Most Wednesday nights I spend a couple hours with middle school students. This year we've been reading the second half of Luke's Gospel (more commonly known as Acts.) I'm not sure I've convinced the students, but this is a riveting story. In fact, a creative person with a little experience in writing screen plays could make a very compelling movie out of it. It has all the makings of a thriller: murder, intrigue, people running for their lives, risk taking, and radical reversals, but I'm getting side tracked.

The Second Half of Luke's Gospel also gives us many different looks at how the earliest followers of Jesus understood what it meant to follow Jesus in an unfriendly world. At the close of chapter two we are told that the first believers, "...committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers." (Acts 2:42, *The Message*) To be the Church these are the basics: commitment to understanding and living the good news, fellowship with one another, sharing food, and prayer. If we start here we will become the people of God (just as the church in this story) that have the strength to take the Gospel into the world.

I find that I'm constantly evaluating LVPC by this simple summary passage. Are we committed to knowing and following scripture (we don't have the Apostles with us, but we have their teaching)? Do we participate in deep and sincere fellowship? Do we share meals because when we share a meal we break down barriers? Are we a congregation that prays together? These are simple questions we can all ask and apply to ourselves and how we are part of LVPC.

There is more to following Jesus for sure, but we can't and were not intended to carry out God's mission alone. I've been a part of many different small groups, bible studies, prayer groups, and fellowship groups over the years and as I reflect on those experiences it is the ones that have had all these elements which have most shaped my life.

At the present there are some groups at LVPC that gather for this purpose (you can find them on the pages of this newsletter), but many of us are not engaged in a fellowship group outside of Sunday morning. I want to suggest that each of us should make an effort to be involved in a small group that includes the practices of the "Acts 2 Community." Our own families are not a bad place to start, but I often find we can get in a rut together and it is helpful to be involved with others. If you cannot find

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Acts 2:42, The Message

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an on-ramp for deeper community life at LVPC please come see me so we can come up with a solution.

For some time I've had the desire to see an active men's group which would include these practices. In the past couple years others have made similar suggestions and it occurs to me that there is nothing standing in the way. I understand that we all live busy lives, but we should not be sons, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and disciples alone. We are meant to have a shared life together. It is my hope that we can begin to have this among the men of LVPC. All men of all ages are welcome. **We'll begin Saturday, February 22nd at 8am in the Church Library.**



Evening Circle

Evening Circle — A Special Invitation to learn about Prayer Shawls!

The Evening Circle will not be having its regular Bible study at the next meeting. Instead, On **Wed. Feb. 19th at 7 p.m. in the Getz Library**, we plan to have a visitor! Darlene Tapie, who was the representative for the Kenyan projects at our Alternative Gift Fair, will be teaching us how to make "Prayer Shawls." She went to Kenya last July to start a Prayer Shawl Ministry there, and our LVPC circle groups gave her an offering last spring to help support that project. Now she wants to come and teach us about the ministry! She will help us to knit or crochet (there are two patterns that she uses) Prayer Shawls, and she will tell us more the project. Anyone who likes to knit or crochet is invited to join us, but **please RSVP**, because Darlene will bring yarn and needs to know how much to bring. We can purchase yarn from her (at sale prices) or you can buy your own yarn at Michael's, AC Moore, or Jo-Ann's fabric

stores: **Lion Brand Homespun acrylic**. Three skeins are needed for the knitted shawl, and four for the crocheted one (She suggests 3 skeins the same color and one contrasting). Please bring knitting needles (size 11 or 13) or crochet hooks (size M, or K if you don't have M). We will have light refreshments — bring a snack to share if you would like. We will make tea or coffee. Please let **Nancy Knight (537-4347)** know if you are coming, so she can advise Darlene, and so we can let you know if bad weather forces us to reschedule. Hope to see you on the 19th!

A Note From the Finance Committee

What is Per Capita?

You may have noticed an expense of \$4,060 in our budget, called Per Capita. Per Capita is LVPC's assessment from the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) to maintain our structure of governance and connectedness. Per Capita is assessed at \$32.22 per church member and is divided among the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery.

What do Per Capita dollars provide?

More specifically, per capita funding covers expenses related to holding the General Assembly meeting, bringing together church leaders for training events, developing and administering ordination exams, producing the *Book of Order*, and maintaining a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings worldwide. On a more local level, Newton Presbytery uses per capita funding for administrative, building, and salary costs that help it to pursue its constitutionally required activities along with its mission to promote healthy congregations and community.

Why should I pay Per Capita?

Paying per capita is similar to contributing one's dish to a potluck meal or paying to be connected to the internet. In essence, per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. This is important; let's try to raise the funds to cover our per capita expense this year! If you have not done so, please pay your family's (LVPC members only) portion of the per capita expense, and designate it as such on your check or envelope.

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, email Claudia at lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com. Registration forms will be sent out by e-mail soon as well as be available on our website.

Children's Ministry

Sunday School classes are hopping at LVPC. Recently the 4th - 5th grade class brought pictures and stories to share about their own baptisms as the class was considering Jesus' baptism. One 4th grader was so chubby that he almost didn't fit in his baptismal outfit! Another was a first child and had quite a huge photo shoot. Yet another was baptized by her Dad; I wonder who that could have been? It

was a fun way to share and to consider how baptism asks us all to minister to others. The 2nd - 3rd grade class played an active game last week with their teacher Natalie Gast. They loved seeing her run around the room waving her hands in the air welcoming everyone! If you wonder what the game was all about, ask one of the children at coffee hour!

It is still winter and you may be dreaming of spring, **but** please be thinking summer and put VBS on your calendar! This year the multigenerational VBS program will be July 13 -17. Training for disciples will be May 4, and May 18. The training program is for adults who will be leading games, arts, or worship for one evening during Bible School. The other evenings adults will spend in a Bible Study. The focus this year will be on the ministry and life of Jesus. Last summer many generations joined together: babies (babysitting provided), children of VBS age, teens, adults without children, parents, and seniors. It was a wonderful five days. Each evening, dinner was

served followed by a group time and then activities. It was marvelous fun and fellowship with our church family. Mark down the dates and join us this summer.

The Spiritual Formation of Children Team is delighted to welcome new members: Susan Huntington and Christina Wilson. We are blessed and look forward to working with these new disciples. The Spring Breakfast Retreat for Sunday School teachers will be held on April 5, from 9 a.m. until noon. Teachers, please mark this date on your calendars. For those who feel they might want to teach Sunday School in the future, please mark this date on your calendar also. Come join us at breakfast and learn how awesome it is to teach our youngsters.

The BRAB group (Building Relationships Around Books)

We are a group of ladies that meet in the evening on the 1st Monday of each month. We enjoy snacks & wine while having an informal & lively discussion on member-chosen books. For more info, please contact Kim Rodgers at chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com.

NEW! Men's Fellowship

Men of all ages are invited to join our new Men's Fellowship group which will begin meeting on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. - 9:30 starting February 22nd.

The Califon Moms

Moms with young children get together weekly to talk, support each other & let the kids interact/play. We usually meet in the mornings one day a week at parks or one another's homes. This group was started by a few ladies at LVPC, but has branched out to include other moms in the Califon area. If you'd like to join us, contact Natalie Gast at gast.natalie@gmail.com.

Newsletter Options

Please help us save on postage and copier paper costs by receiving the newsletter via e-mail. Also, by receiving an e-mail version, you will be able to enjoy all our photos in color! If you are interested please e-mail Claudia at: lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com. The newsletter can also be viewed on our webpage: www.lowervalley.org.

Soup for Sale!

Our Soup Sale to benefit our ASP volunteers' expenses and work in Tennessee this July continues during Fellowship. Please help support this wonderful program to make homes safe, warm and dry for our neighbors in Appalachia.

Join us for Fellowship!

Come and get to know your church family at Coffee & Conversation every Sunday after service in the Parish Hall. Eat, talk and let your kids have fun. Help support this fun time by sharing the load. Set up, bake, bring a favorite dish or help clean up. Sign up at the table in the Parish Hall.

Offering Envelopes

Please remember to pick up your 2014 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex.

February 2014

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
GL: Getz Library PH: Parish House S: Sanctuary BC: Bible Cafe AR: Agape Ringers JN: Joyful Noise						1
2 AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Fellowship: 11 a.m., PH JN: no practice Journey: 6 p.m., Rodgers' home	3 BRAB Group: 7 p.m., Staiano's	4 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	5 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH	6	7	8
9 AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Fellowship: 11 a.m., PH JN: 11:30-12:15, GL	10 Girl Scouts (Ollerenshaw): 6:30 p.m., GL	11 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	12 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH	13	14	15 Sacred Classical Music Recital, 7 p.m., S
16 Family Worship AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Fellowship: 11 a.m., PH JN: 11:30-12:15, GL Journey: 6 p.m., Rodgers' home	17	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	20	21	22 Men's Fellowship: 8 - 9:30 a.m., GL Rental: 1 p.m., PH
23 AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL JN: 11:30-12:15, GL Journey: 6 p.m., Rodgers' home	24	25 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	26 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH	27	28 Family Game Night: 6 p.m. PH	

Church Info:

Phone: 908-832-2933

E-mail: lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com

Website: www.lowervalley.org

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

Pastor Chad's Contact info:

Cell phone: 892.0044

E-mail: revchadrodgers@gmail.com

Art Table Schedule for Family Worship

2/16: Renee Ollerenshaw

3/16: Isabel Roppolo and Lisa Coffaro

4/20: Kim Rodgers, Natalie Gast and Linda Stetler

5/25: Donna and Erika Leddie

Children's Message Schedule

2/23: May Saxton

3/23: Kyle Garcia

4/27: Ron Schildge

5/18: Tracy Heuneman

Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship Host(s)
February 2	Nancy Knight	Madeleine Argue Rich Ehrlich	Sally Zeiner Terry Hoffman May Saxton Warren Newman	Rodgers
February 9	Sally Zeiner	Renee and Jeff Ollerenshaw		Donnell Dahl
February 16 Family Worship	Marilyn El-Zahr	Stephanie and Jeff Donlon		Stetler
February 23	May Saxton	Donna and John Leddie		O'Keefe
March 2	Sue Huntington	Nancy and David Knight	Sue Huntington Linda Setter OPEN OPEN	
March 9	Stephanie Donlon	Terry Hoffman Ed Getz		
March 16 Family Worship	OPEN	Lisa Coffaro Isabel Roppolo		
March 23	OPEN	OPEN OPEN		
March 30	OPEN	Madeleine Argue Anne Underhill		

If you are able to serve in an OPEN spot please contact the church office.

If you are unable to serve in an assigned spot please try your best to find a substitute and let the office know of any changes. Thanks so much!

February 2014

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

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.