

FROM PASTOR CHAD

Children

Many of us are moving into June at full speed: with end of school year activities, projects in the yard and garden, spring sports, improving weather, last minute planning for summer vacation and many more things occupying our time.

Though I too feel the rush of present activities and future planning I'd like to slow down for a moment to reflect on our May 18th worship. I received many positive remarks about the way our 4th and 5th graders conducted themselves as worship leaders. They were prepared, composed, confident, well spoken, and bubbling with enthusiasm. But, I was equally impressed by the congregation's willingness to be led by our children. (They didn't put on a show for us, but invited us to worship with them.)

What was it about the worship led by children that touched your heart or helped you to hear God's voice? Did they bring something to the leading of worship that was fresh? Would you like to see more children taking on roles of leadership in our worship together?

I'm very grateful to their Sunday school teachers for guiding and encouraging them in the process of planning worship. They were not just given words to recite, but either wrote or chose the readings themselves. The planning and execution of this was not for the purpose of nurturing public speakers. It was a chance to talk about worship and for all of us involved to gain a deeper grasp of what is happening when we gather for worship together.

One of the things I hope we learned is that there is room for children to lead worship at LVPC; not just on one Sunday out of fifty-two, but as part of any one of them. Children, youth, and adults of all ages can lead and be led in worship together. I think of 1 Corinthians 12 when Paul uses the metaphor of the body, having many parts, to talk about the Church. We can only be fully God's people/church when we embrace the gifts of both young and old. Everyone is part of the body.

For over 6 years now I've been telling everyone that one of the great strengths of our congregation is the way we include and embrace children in the full life of our congregation. We have been and are becoming, more and more, a truly multi-generational church. After our service on May 18th I feel as if we've made another stride in that direction. We are learning that our voices, all our voices, are required for true worship.

In fact, this whole experience has got me wondering: do we even need a *Children's Message*? Isn't the whole worship experience for children? After all, we don't have a *Senior Citizen's Message* a *Baby Boomer Message*, or a *Message for Those in Mid-life*. I'd like us to think together how

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

all aspects of our church life, not just worship, can value the gifts that all generations bring and how all those gifts might be incorporated in our congregational life together.

One further opportunity to be a truly multi-generational church is our reformatted Vacation Bible School. Last summer we called it VBS*plus+* and it was a whole church family experience. It turned out to be sort of like a summer day camp experience (only it is in the evening and lasts for only about two and a half hours). This time around we're looking to drop the VBS altogether. We're not a congregation that has programs for children (this is the classic understanding of VBS), but a congregation that worships, plays, and grows in faith together. Anything *for children* is also an opportunity for the rest of us.

It is a true blessing as both a pastor and a father to be part of a congregation that embraces the gifts of the whole community, and is growing in faith together.



NURSERY CARE SUBS

Need a baby/toddler fix? The nursery is in need of a few substitutes we can call when Colleen won't be able to make it. Please e-mail Kim at chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com or call at 892-0141 to let her know. Thanks!

THE BRAB GROUP (Building Relationships Around Books)

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

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It takes a village of disciples to pass along our faith to the children at LVPC. The Spiritual Formation Team would like to thank all our congregation members for showing the love of Jesus Christ to our children. Sunday School teachers this year were Liz Burns, Debbie Gartelmann, Wendy Garcia, Natalie Gast, Marilyn El-Zahr, Linda Stetler, Erik Gast, Lyn Magee, Ron Schildge, Tracy Heuneman and Kim Rodgers. The Children's Message was given by congregation members once a month allowing our kids to hear the word from even more adults.

Thanks to Sally Zeiner-Morrish, Susan Huntington, Tracy Heuneman, May Saxton, and Ron Schildge for their messages. The Art Table during family worship was manned by Nicole Dahl, Christina Wilson, Lora Harris, Jennifer Wysocki, Stephanie Donlon, Renee Ollerenshaw, Isabel Roppolo, Lisa Coffaro, Kim Rodgers, Natalie Gast, Linda Stetler, and Donna Leddie. If you would like to join these disciples in guiding our children, sign up for any of these opportunities or speak to a member of The Spiritual Formation Team. Also, a special shout out goes to Sue Hostler who coordinates our fabulous bell ringing

program which includes many of our children. Pastor Chad leads our kids in many other ways including the Wednesday night 6, 7, 8 Channel group, and the Sunday night high school group, but we are reminded each time we have a baptism that it is our charge to join Chad in the raising of our children in faith.

VBS+ is coming in July. All generations are welcome July 13 - 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will begin with dinner followed by activities for children and a bible study for adults. Babysitting will be available. It is still not too late to sign up (*registration form can be found on page 5*). See Kim

Rodgers, Natalie Gast, Christina Wilson, Linda Stetler or Susan Huntington.

Summer is approaching. The last day of Sunday School is June 8, but Children's Ministry does not stop in the summer. Children can listen to the sermon as they create at the art table each week. Children can grow in faith through VBS+. And children will talk with you during lemonade on the lawn!

While we teach our children about God, our children teach us what God is all about.

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Beginning June 18th, the office will have limited hours:

Claudia will be on summer break until August 28

Pastor Chad's summer plans are as follows:

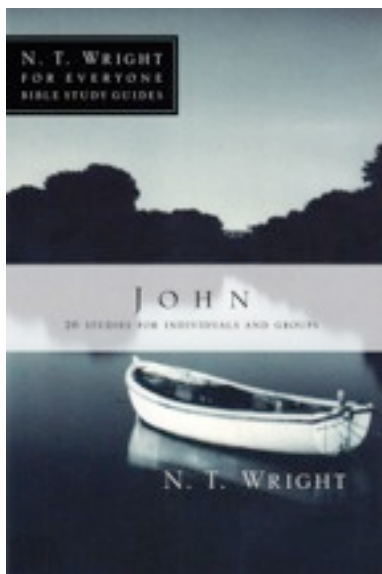
Vacation: June 9-July 2

ASP Trip: July 19-26

PLEASE NOTE: While Chad is away Warren Newman (908-763-6094) or Wendy Garcia at (862-432-7647) will be available for any pastoral concerns.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are invited to join our new Men's Fellowship group which meets on Saturday mornings from 8 - 9:30 a.m.



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.

ASP PRAYER CARDS

This year we will once again offer "Prayer Postcards" featuring each of the ASP volunteers. The postcards will have a photo of each member of the LVPC team and prayer requests. The postcards can be yours for a \$10 donation each, fully tax deductible.

During May and June, our ASP volunteers will have the postcards available and can talk with you during Coffee and Conversation after worship.

Our volunteers are:

Anthony and Julie Casale, Pastor Chad, Melissa and Jake Ollerenshaw, Laura Hostler, Terry Hoffman, Lora and Annalee Harris, Sara Varga, Sarah Tyms (friend of Melissa Ollerenshaw), Jack and Karen Mastro and Isabel Roppolo.

Collect the postcards over the coming weeks and keep them handy to remind you to pray for each person before and during the trip. By backing the trip financially and with your prayers, you can be an important part of this mission opportunity. We are very grateful for all of our

generous congregational support!

NEWSLETTER OPTIONS

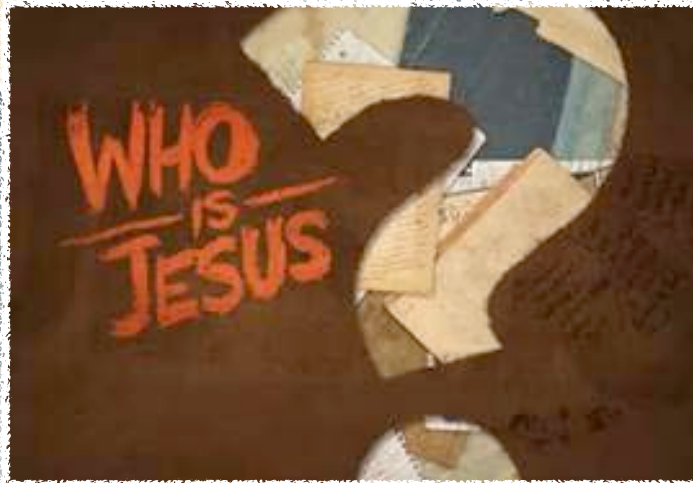
Please help us save on postage and copier paper costs by receiving the newsletter via e-mail. Also, by receiving an e-mail version, you will be able to enjoy any photos in color! If interested please e-mail: lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com. The newsletter can also be viewed on our webpage: lowervalley.org.

PARISH LIFE

Please join us for Lemonade on the Lawn after worship beginning June 8. We still need Fellowship hosts even though we'll be enjoying the nice weather. Please sign up.

WHO IS JESUS?

Come explore this question with us at **VBSplus+** 2014!
 July 13-17, 5:30-8:30. We'll start with dinner & end with fun!



Last year was such a success we decided to do an all ages style VBS again, but we'll need your help to make it even better.

- There will be activities for kids and adults.
- Child care will be available.
- \$25 donation per family. Single adults attending are asked to bring some food to share as their donation. After signing up, Linda Stetler will contact you to coordinate the nightly meals.
- We need adults to lead activities for the kids (Don't worry, we'll help you). If everyone volunteers 1 night, then everyone will have the chance to participate in the adult section of VBSplus+. You can work alone or in teams. Planning workshops will be in the evening on 5/4 & 5/18.
- Please fill out and return the registration form today!
- Any questions, contact Kim Rodgers at chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com or 908-892-0141.

Let us know how many to count on for **VBSplus+ 2014!**

Family Name: _____

Name and age of children attending: _____

Name of adults attending: _____

Area you're interested in helping with (please circle): Art Games Practicing Our Faith

(If more than one adult would like to help, please indicate what each would be interested in.)

What is the best way to get in touch with you? _____

Please return this section to the church office or in the offertory plate as soon as possible.

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: lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com

Website: www.lowervalley.org

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

Session Members

Lisa Coffaro: 832-0409/coffaro423@comcast.net

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

Wendy Garcia: 867-7186/kwgarcia@msn.com

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

John Leddie: 537-9622/dovendog@comcast.net

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

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

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

May Saxton (Clerk): 537-4963/saxton-family@comcast.net

Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship Host(s)
June 1 Worship in the Park/picnic	Sue Huntington	Abby and Ken Ernst	Stephanie Donlon Linda Stetler Terry Hoffman Warren Newman	
June 8	OPEN	Renee and Jeff Ollerenshaw		
June 15	Warren Newman	Stephanie and Jeff Donlon		Stetler
June 22	Judy Eckwielen	Linda Stetler Nancy Knight		
June 29	Joni Nodes	OPEN		
July 6	Sue Huntington	Terry Hoffman	Renee Ollerenshaw Sue Huntington	
July 13	OPEN	Marilyn and Al El-Zahr		
July 20	OPEN	Linda Stetler		
July 27	Dick Kline	Lisa Coffaro and Isabel Roppolo		
August 3	OPEN	Judie and Adam Ambielli	Stephanie Donlon Warren Newman	
August 10	Marilyn El-Zahr	Janet and Gary Kipp		
August 17	Stephanie Donlon	Linda Stetler		
August 24	Judy Eckwielen	OPEN		
August 31	Warren Newman	Terry Hoffman		

**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!**

June 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.