

# Parish Happenings

November 2016

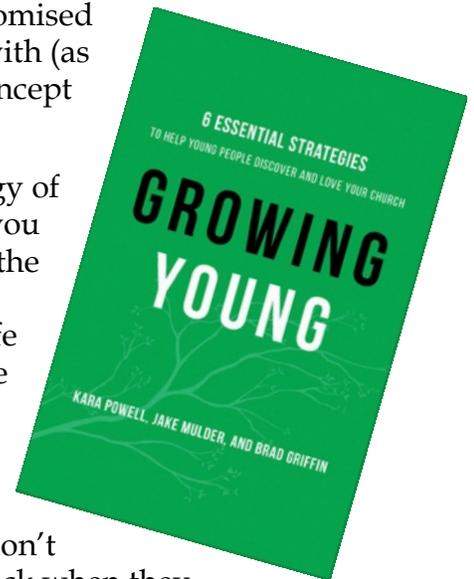
## FROM PASTOR CHAD

*"All churches grow old... but strategic churches are growing young."*

Last month I wrote about the recent book, *Growing Young*, which identifies common strategies that churches growing young have in common. I promised to highlight the 6 strategies in upcoming newsletters and so we begin with (as the book does, but in no particular order of importance) the authors' concept of "unlocking keychain leadership".

The whole idea of unlocking keychain leadership is based on the analogy of keys as empowerment and the idea that when you give someone keys you give them power to make things happen. We all know the custodian at the elementary school is the one who holds all the keys, and therefore, is really the one in charge of access and activities. (Now, I realize, in the life of our church this might not be the best analogy because over half of the residents of Califon Borough seem to have keys to our church, but I think you can probably get the idea they are after.)

Churches that grow young have both strong pastoral and congregational leaders, but these leaders don't hang onto all the keys, don't give them to people who are untrained, and don't expect to get them back when they do give them out. They are: "acutely aware of the keys on their keychain; and intentional about entrusting and empowering all generations, including teenagers and emerging adults, with their own set of keys."



This whole concept moves churches away from the idea of a "superstar" pastor or leader who does it all and holds all the keys. The chapter on leadership in the book is very thought provoking and raises many questions. I found myself wondering what keys I hold onto or only give out begrudgingly with the expectation of getting them back. I wonder if it wouldn't be helpful for all of us to consider how the leadership structures of our church are functioning. Do our session members hold all the keys? Or are they training and involving others (most especially the young) in the ministry and mission of our church?

I know that I'm open to a much deeper look at this aspect of our ministry together because I think there is probably a great deal of room for growth in this area for both myself and all of our leaders. The authors also make the following point, "Beyond simply the launching of a student leadership team, keychain leadership is a spirit and commitment demonstrated by both paid and volunteer leaders that permeate every area of the church." I think this is crucial because it is an overall attitude that says we're in this together and acknowledges that, though we need leaders, the whole of our ministry and community life needs to be very much shared across generations.

When the authors of the book asked church leaders what was leading to the effectiveness of their congregations in growing young “over 30 percent mentioned that they entrust young people with opportunities to lead and contribute.” I think I, and we, have room for growth in this area and look forward to how we might better engage our whole community in better sharing the keys to leadership.

*Chad*



**Chad and our visitor, Collins Omondi, from KIDS in Uganda who joined us for worship on October 23.**

### **EVENING CIRCLE**

Our next meeting of the Evening Circle will be on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Getz Library. Study will be Lesson 7 “Economy of Grace” — continuing from Horizon’s Bible Study: “Reconciling Paul, A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians”. Please come and join us. Any questions call Nancy Knight 537-4347 or Joni Nodes 391-6263.

### **ADVENT WORKSHOP**

The Advent workshop is November 26, at 6:30, in the parish hall. This year the children will be working on a project for our Christmas banner. Do you remember the butterfly banners in the sanctuary during the Easter Season last spring? We are going to do a similar project for Advent. Come to the Advent Workshop and work on the banners. Everyone welcome. Please bring a dessert to share.

### **2016 CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

We will be heading out to Wind Gap, PA to pick up the trees on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> (the day after Thanksgiving). Please let Warren Newman know if you would like to come along. We’ll leave the church parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Free breakfast

at the local diner for all volunteers! We will also need help when we arrive back at church (about 12:30 p.m.) with the unloading and sorting. The sale will be on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. leading up to Christmas. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for salespersons. All proceeds will go to local church and mission needs.

### **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

There are a million reasons and ways to give to our LVPC community, but as the Thanksgiving season arrives, please remember your pledges as a sign of gratitude for all that LVPC means to you. Our 2016 pledge drive letter from the finance team will be sent out shortly — please take the time in the coming weeks to reflect on what LVPC represents to you and your family, and consider how you can share your gifts of time, talent, and money with our vibrant (and growing!) community.

### **MISSION NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Giving Fair:** The Giving Fair is **Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.** (Please note the time change.) Get an early start on your holiday shopping and purchase *symbolic* gifts through donations to

numerous local, regional, and international organizations. Many of these organizations are new to our fair, so please considering joining us to check them out. As of the printing of the newsletter the Giving Fair gift list was still being finalized. Please check the website in the coming week for the list to be posted. In addition, this year there will be **"Giving Fair Passports"**. We are hoping this will be a fun way for children (and adults) to visit every organization. **If you fill your passport, you will get one free ticket for our raffle baskets!** There will be a wonderful lunch for purchase as well as interactive exhibits and fabulous raffle baskets. All proceeds from the raffle baskets will go to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. **We hope to see you on November 12<sup>th</sup>!**

### Stay Tuned for our LVPC Little Free Library

Thanks to Terry Hoffman and the Mission Team there will be a Little Free Library located outside the front of the church along Route 513. There will be a selection of books available for anyone to take and read. Feel free to bring books to the Little Library for others to borrow. The Little

Free Library motto is "Take a Book. Return a Book". Happy reading!

### **NURSERY CARETAKERS NEEDED**

Our church is still looking for experienced, energetic, and dependable nursery workers to provide care for children ages infant - 4 years during worship services on Sunday morning, and for other occasional events. This is a great opportunity for someone to be involved in our community. It is a paid position and the employee must be willing to submit a background check. If you know someone who may be interested please contact Christina Wilson at [cmwilsondvm@gmail.com](mailto:cmwilsondvm@gmail.com) or 732-616-6188.



**our little libraries ready for paint!**

### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

#### **Spiritual Formation of Children**

Christmas is approaching... you have been listening to announcements in church about how you can help at LVPC during the Advent Season.

- The **Christmas Play** will be December 18, in the sanctuary. We need help. There are many jobs to do: practicing with the kids, costuming, organization for the brunch, and singing. Please consider helping out. Contact Kim Rodgers, Linda Stetler, or Natalie Gast to sign up.

The **Channel Group** (grades 6-8, high schoolers welcome) meets on Wednesday evenings in the parish hall. It's a really fun time filled with fellowship, laughter, and games.

The **high school group** is meeting on Saturday evenings. The group is hoping to visit different homes for their meetings. They are currently looking for a host for November 5. Join the fun!

**APPALACHIA SERVICE  
PROJECT (ASP)  
HAPPENINGS**

**Homemade Soups!!**

Please support our ASP Mission Trip this summer by purchasing delicious homemade soups made by our church families. Our group that travels with ASP is helping to keep those families less fortunate warmer, safer and drier! Look for members of our ASP team during Fellowship in the Parish Hall!

**ASP/BYG Kick-off  
Meeting/Resgistration  
Dates (Must attend I)**

Sunday November 13th,  
Friday November 25th,  
Saturday December 3rd &  
Tuesday December 20th

The times will be announced soon so watch your inbox!

**ASP/BYG Retreat**

Friday, November 4th 5 p.m. -  
Saturday, November 5th 10  
a.m. at Community  
Presbyterian Church in  
Chester. Come one and come  
all! Have you been before?  
Are you thinking about  
joining us in 2017? All are  
invited to join us for our fall  
retreat. Dinner & breakfast  
will be served. Please RSVP to  
Christy at  
[bygworkcamp@gmail.com](mailto:bygworkcamp@gmail.com) or  
908-310-6211. Please dress in  
proper BYG attire (no tank  
tops, short shorts, no  
inappropriate verbiage on  
clothing, etc.)

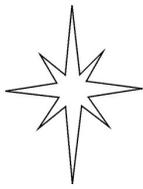
**THANK YOU FROM JACKSON HARRIS**

Dear LVPC,

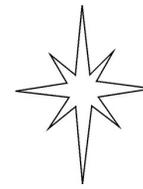
I would like to thank the church, and everyone who contributed to sending me to Johnsonburg for two separate weeks. I learned many stories from the bible. I feel like I know my religion more now. I went to Johnsonburg with my neighbor Joseph, but I also made many new friends that I bonded with throughout the week. Some things I did include completing the high ropes course, running on the spinwheel in the lake, playing my favorite game

gaga, doing the giant swing, playing sports, staying up late, having cookouts, eating good food, and having a great time. I was very happy because your kindness is special - most summers and so are you! I usually just sit around, but this summer I got up and had a great time at Johnsonburg. Thank you for sending me and I can't wait for next year.

Thanks again,  
Jackson Harris



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Giving Fair



Saturday, November 12th — 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church in the Parish Hall  
445 County Road 513, Califon, NJ  
908.832.2933

**Get an early start on your holiday shopping at the Giving Fair and purchase symbolic gifts through donations to local, regional, national, and international charities. There will be representatives from 18 non-profit organizations with INTERACTIVE exhibits.**

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Free cards for purchased gifts

Charitable gifts are tax deductible

Fair trade gift table —Beads For Life

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**RAFFLE BASKETS**

**Benefiting the Open Cupboard Food Pantry**

**Fill your Shoppers Passport by visiting every organization and receive a free raffle ticket!**

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Can't attend? Call or visit [www.lowervalley.org](http://www.lowervalley.org) for a gift list

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church Giving Fair

*In a culture of excess things: Gift giving that changes lives*

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 [lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com](mailto:lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com)

**Pastor Chad's Contact info:**

Cell phone: 908.892.0044

E-mail: [revchadrodgers@gmail.com](mailto:revchadrodgers@gmail.com)

**Church Info:**

Claudia Gilbert: Church Administrator

Phone: 908-832-2933

E-mail: [lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com](mailto:lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com)

Website: [www.lowervalley.org](http://www.lowervalley.org)

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

**Session Members**

Lisamarie Boehm: 432-3414/[lisamarie\\_boehm@yahoo.com](mailto:lisamarie_boehm@yahoo.com)

Stephanie Donlon: 537-2604/[stephaniedonlon@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniedonlon@yahoo.com)

Abby Ernst: 439-3549/[abigailernst@gmail.com](mailto:abigailernst@gmail.com)

Terry Hoffman: 689-7646/[tbeehoffman@aol.com](mailto:tbeehoffman@aol.com)

Warren Newman: 638-4332/[newmanwj@cdmsmith.com](mailto:newmanwj@cdmsmith.com)

Kim Rodgers: 892-0141/[chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com](mailto:chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com)

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

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

## Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers
November 6	OPEN	Terry Hoffman Wendy Garcia	Lisamarie Boehm OPEN OPEN OPEN
November 13	Judy Eckwielen	Rich Ehrlich Lisamarie Boehm	
November 20	Warren Newman	Nancy and David Knight	
November 27 — Family Worship	Terry Hoffman	Janet and Gary Kipp	
December 4	Stephanie Donlon	Anthony Casale OPEN	Lisamarie Boehm Stephanie Donlon OPEN OPEN
December 11	Christina Wilson	Madeleine Argue Richard Fincher	
December 18	Rachel Gast	Judy Eckwielen Stuart Solewater	
December 24 4:30 p.m.	???	???	
December 24 7:30 p.m.	???	Karen and Warren Newman	
December 25 Family Worship	Dick Kline	Lisa Coffaro Isabel Roppolo	

**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  
November 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.