

FROM PASTOR CHAD

The Lord's Supper

The first Sunday in October means World Communion Sunday. Although we celebrate communion as a congregation every month, it is the coming Sunday on which we pay special attention to reminding ourselves that we are not alone in our celebration of the Lord's Supper. We are joined by other Christians around the globe in a world wide faith and so we celebrate with special attention to Christians of many traditions and cultures.



Here at Lower Valley Presbyterian we have a congregation with a history of diverse Christian experience and practice. It often comes as a surprise to those new to our community that when we celebrate communion very young children will come forward to receive bread and juice. And we make sure they can join us by switching around the Sunday school schedule on the first Sunday of every month.

This wasn't always the case. In fairly recent history the PC (U.S.A.) changed the Directory for Worship to encourage the full participation of children, with the direction of their parents, in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We approach the table at the invitation of Christ (who welcomed children) and no one else. Children learn especially well through participation, action, movement, and practice and we want to encourage the spiritual formation of the youngest members of our community in as many ways as possible.

Further, we would be wise to ask ourselves, as adults, who of us has a complete understanding of the mystery of God's presence in the sacraments? Are we too not still learning and growing into a deeper faith and being formed and shaped by the practices of the Church? Just as a child's understanding of the sacrament will grow deeper as they mature so too does our understanding deepen with time, practice, and ongoing reflection.

When we gather for the baptism of a child we promise "to guide and nurture [the child] by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ..." We have promised to be partners with parents in helping the children in our congregation to understand and grow in faith. This is the back bone of our emphasis on spiritual formation and in our whole approach to children.

It is for this reason that we will be having a communion and bread baking workshop Saturday, October 18 from 2 - 4 p.m. I would like to emphasize that this is an opportunity for anyone who

Continued from previous page

wants to take some time out for deeper reflection on our practice of celebrating The Lord's Supper. We'll explore scripture, get our hands into some bread dough, bake and enjoy some fresh baked bread.

This is a great chance for families to come and learn together. If you have been looking for some help in explaining communion or are new to our community and still trying to understand our practices, this will be a fun and delicious way to ask questions and explore our communion practices.

Many of you are aware that I have often baked the bread we serve in communion myself. For the past five years or so I have enjoyed baking bread and praying for those who will partake of it the following morning in worship, however, I'm thinking I am past due for sharing this practice with others. I'd like to suggest that we take on communion preparation as families. Come to the workshop and then consider signing up to bake bread for worship, with your whole household as a spiritual practice.

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.

HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION

The Open Cupboard Food Pantry feeds those in need all summer long even as we vacationed. Now our cupboards are getting bare and need to be replenished.

There is an OCFP basket waiting to be filled as you enter the sanctuary and as you enter the Sunday School wing of our church. Set yourself a goal for this fall and winter...bring a non-perishable food item to church each Sunday as part of your regular giving.

Special food needs are listed on the Open Cupboard website: www.opencupboardfoodpantry.org...or bring an item of your choice. Maybe watch for sale items at the store and buy 2 – 1 for your family and 1 for a food pantry family.

Food contributions will be offered up for prayer during worship the first Sunday of each month. Why not make a contribution to Open Cupboard -- be a part of helping our neighbors going

through rough times and a part of your giving to others?

ATTENTION ALL HANDBELL AFFICIONADOS

As the summer winds down, it's time to start thinking about handbell season again! Our wonderful bell choirs added so much beautiful music to the worship services. If you have enjoyed hearing us play, we would love it if you would consider joining in on the fun!

This year we will offer three individual sessions of handbell rehearsals. You can sign up for any or all of the sessions:

Session 1 – September through Christmas Eve

Session 2 – January through Easter (April 5)

Session 3 – April 12 to June 7

My hope is that people who have been interested in playing the bells but can't commit to a whole year of bell choir will consider joining us for a session or two, as it suits your schedule.

We offer two groups: *Joyful Noise* is for those who are new to handbells or are beginning ringers. *Agape Ringers* consists of more experienced ringers who are looking for more of a challenge.

The practice times are as follows:

Agape Ringers – 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Sundays

Joyful Noise – 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Sundays

I invite everyone in our congregation, ages 9 – 99, to consider joining our bell groups. Experience is not necessary, and I am happy to give some training to anyone who would like to play, but feels intimidated by the bells. I promise that it's not as hard as it looks!

I will be posting sign-up sheets in Parish Hall for the next few Sundays, and will be available to answer any questions you may have about our Bell Choirs.

Our church has been blessed with a lot of very dedicated people who love making music. Please join us so we can keep the blessing going!

– Sue Hostler

PARISH LIFE

ASP Soup Sale

We will be starting our ASP soup sale early this year. We are planning to start the first week in October and have people sign up until the last weekend of February. Frozen leftovers will be sold in March. If we have a lot of people signing up then we will go with sign ups until half way through March and just do the leftover frozen soup in April.

Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network)

Fairmount Presbyterian Church will be hosting homeless families in their Community House from October 5 - October 19. The

families will be provided meals and shelter by member congregations from all over Hunterdon County. Fairmount invites members of Lower Valley to spend a night or sit with these families during the day or offer to provide home cooked dinners. If you choose to spend the night you would be there from 5:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. Please contact Dave Loth at 908-752-3524 or Bob Eyt at 908-268-5123 for more information about this Mission opportunity. You can also speak with Lisa Coffaro.

Parish Get Togethers

Lastly, Parish Life is looking for a few new ways to get our members together like a Fall Family Movie Night & a Ladies Bunco evening. See Lisa if you're interested in either or have any other ideas.

Fellowship Sign Up

Just a clarification about the Fellowship Sign Up sheet that has been in the bulletin and is also in this newsletter. The purpose of this sign up is just to have a list of extra people that we can call on to drop off something or called on if we are short handed.

EVENING CIRCLE

The Women's Evening Circle will start up again on Wed. October 15th at 7 p.m. in the Getz Library. The lesson is from the Horizons Magazine Bible Study, lesson 7 Abiding Hope "Covenant Living" based on Exodus 20-23 and

Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Nancy Knight will be leading the study. We meet the third Wednesday of the month and welcome any newcomers. Any questions contact Joni Nodes 236-7996 or Nancy Knight 537-4347.

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.

ASP RETREAT

The fall retreat for those who have participated, are interested in participating or even have the slightest notion they might participate in 2015 is coming up: **November 6th at 5 p.m. to November 7th at 1 p.m. at LVPC.** The cost is \$10 and includes fellowship time, dinner from Fesco De Noche and baking of those amazing cookies. There is also a new 9-square court just looking to be broken in too!

Also, keep your eyes on your e-mail inboxes as preparations for next year are already beginning.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School began on September 7, 2014. Children are welcome any time; it is never too late to join a class. God's love has no timeline. The Pre-1st grade class is learning to share joys and concerns with one another. The 2nd and 3rd grade class did Trust Falls with Jeff and Nicole Dahl last week! The 4th and 5th grade class is getting to know each other by talking about some of their favorite things. They are also starting to memorize the Books of the New Testament. The 6th, 7th, 8th grade class established class rules on the first Sunday, and discussed how to handle conflict in their everyday lives. They talked about their summer travels and discovered that Ava and Annalise had traveled to Oregon, the longest distance away from NJ of anyone in the class. Annalise may have won that contest as she was sitting in the front of the car while Ava was in the back. The high school students have their note pads out and are taking notes in church. In the evening at Journey, they are discussing the sermon.

Middle Schoolers are reminded that The Channel is meeting in the parish hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. They are having fun playing games with Pastor Chad!

Keep November 29, in your minds and on your calendars. This is the date for this year's Advent workshop and dessert. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. More information to follow. The children's Christmas presentation will be on December 21. Watch for sign ups. The schedule for

practice is below and will be posted on the LVPC website.

If you would like to take part in our children's ministry, please contact anyone on the Spiritual Formation Team: Kim Rodgers, Susan Huntington, Natalie Gast, Christina Wilson, Linda Stetler.

Christmas Play Practice Schedule

Sunday, November 16th:	11:15-11:30 Meet with kids to hand out play so they can look over their lines and start to practice and memorize them
Sunday, November 23rd:	11:30-11:45 Parent meeting
Sunday, November 30th:	11:30-12:45 Practice for those who have lines
Saturday, December 6th:	11:30-1:00 Practice for those who have lines, costume sizing for those who don't have lines
Sunday, December 14th:	10:00-12:00 Practice for those who have lines 11:30-1:00 Practice for all kids involved in the play
Saturday, December 20th:	9:00-1:00 Dress Rehearsal for those with lines 11:00-1:00 Dress Rehearsal for those without lines Lunch of pizza and other snacks will be included. Pick up the kids in the Parish Hall.
Sunday, December 21st:	9:30 Arrive and put on costumes 10:00 Lead worship through performance of the Christmas Play

ASP News

We have already begun to prepare for the 2015 trip to Appalachia to help make homes warmer, safer and drier! We have 13 volunteers tentatively signed up to join in the BYG (Big Youth Group) trip that combines people from 6 or more churches, and we are looking for more. You must be 14 years old by the time of the trip, and adults are especially needed. Most likely the trip will be to Johnson City, Tennessee, again from July 18-25, 2015. Fundraising has already begun, and Christy Hemmes, head of BYG, sends out a newsletter with many opportunities listed every month. These could involve babysitting at Chester Community Church's Parents' Night Out, helping direct parking for fall festivals in Chester, or helping with used clothing drives, to name just a few. Our church members will be making soup and selling it, beginning soon (see the separate article). Working with volunteers from other churches to raise money all year is part of the ASP experience. It is a fun way to get to know others who will be going on the trip, and the money raised goes toward your trip expenses. Lora Harris has organized a meeting of everyone who is interested in going; if you missed it, please see her, Nancy Knight, or Pastor

Chad. We need to know soon if you are serious about going on the ASP Work Trip in 2015, since the number of spots that our church will be allotted depends on the estimated number we have before a BYG meeting on Oct. 22. Paperwork and deposits must be in on time this year or you may end up on a waiting list. Please look at your calendars and plan ahead – it really is a life-changing experience!

12TH ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

The biggest mission opportunity of our church calendar is just around the corner! Scheduled for **Sat., Nov. 15th, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**, in our Parish Hall, the Alternative Gift Fair is an event that brings together all of our members and the community as we reach out to people in need of help.

We are excited to have new organizations participate this year, including The Seeing Eye!

Over the 12 years that our church has been having this fair, we have given well over \$115,000 to help others. We can honor loved ones who "have everything," teachers, neighbors, coworkers...the list goes on. Most people are gratified to know that help is given where it is needed, and our dollars are not contributing to the commercialism of our

culture's celebration of Christmas, or to the clutter of "stuff" in many of our homes!

Please put the date on your calendar now and plan to bring friends. Word of mouth is the best advertising! Please let Nancy Knight (908-537-4347), Pastor Chad, or Claudia Gilbert know if you can help.

The Mission Committee needs your help to pull this event together! Every member of our church can help in some way. The original committee is getting older and can not do it all...please think about how you can help. Lyn and Ron Magee's move is leaving a big hole – please let us know if you have computer talents or other skills that can help us carry on this wonderful mission project.

NURSERY CARE SUBS

The nursery is in need of a few substitutes we can call when Colleen won't be able to make it. Please let Kim Rodgers know.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We just began our study of the Book of Acts. It's never too late to join us. We meet on Saturday mornings from 8 - 9:30 a.m. See Pastor Chad if you are interested.

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: lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com. The newsletter can also be viewed on our webpage: lowervalley.org.

FELLOWSHIP HOST**SIGN-UP**

Now that the weather is cooling down, we will be moving Fellowship into the Parish Hall. Parish Life would like to create a more comprehensive calendar of Hosts for Fellowship Hour.

Help us by filling out this form and dropping it in the offering plate or sending it to the office Thanks!

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

I'm willing to serve as host:

- Once a month
- Once every 8 weeks
- Once a quarter
- Restrictions (i.e., not available during winter months, only available 2nd Sunday of month, etc.)

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: 537-4963/saxton-family@comcast.net

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

Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship Host(s)
October 5	Stephanie Donlon	Wendy and Sara Garcia	Stephanie Donlon Terry Hoffman Wendy Garcia Renee Ollerenshaw	
October 12	Sue Huntington	Marilyn and Al El-Zahr		
October 19	OPEN	Anne Underhill Judy Eckwielen		
October 26	Judy Eckwielen	Terry Hoffman OPEN		
November 2	Sue Huntington	Judie and Adam Ambielli	Sue Huntington Terry Hoffman Stephanie Donlon Wendy Garcia	
November 9	Stephanie Donlon	Cindy and Tim O'Keefe		
November 16	OPEN	Janet and Gary Kipp		
November 23	Warren Newman	OPEN		
November 30	Marilyn El-Zahr	Lisa Coffaro and Isabel Roppolo		

**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!**

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.

October 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.