

From Pastor Chad

The State of our Church

Each year, on the last Sunday in January, we hold an annual congregational meeting. It is never too exciting, but it is required by our constitution. There are a couple items that need to be voted on by the congregation so we can maintain decency and order. If you did not already know, the hallmark of Presbyterianism is conducting all business *decently and in order*. So, once again, we will begin a new year *decently and in order* on Sunday, January 26th following our regular worship.

However, this year we have some changes in the works for our annual meeting. We want it to be more than a few quick motions that a few suckers, who feel compelled to stick around, vote on. Instead the session and I have something more in mind. We'd like our whole congregation (members and friends) to gather for a state of the church address. We have in mind something like the president's annual State of the Union address, but without all the sitting and standing, and clapping, and political rhetoric. We're thinking there is likely to be some visually stimulating elements as well.

The idea is to gather in the Parish Hall over lunch and celebrate the life and ministry of our congregation over the past year and at the same time look forward to the year to come. The session would like to share some of the hopes and dreams, goals, and vision for the future that is talked about and prayed about at our regular meetings.

There are of course some proper motions that need to be made and voted on by those who are members: we'll do that, but the real focus will be the mission of our congregation and how we do and can continue to carry that out together.

While it is the role of those elected to the Session to set a course for the congregation we want to know what the hopes and dreams of the people are for our church as well. In preparation for this shared celebration, reflection, and visioning we'd ask that you spend a small amount of time to consider the following questions:

1. What is it that I most love about LVPC that makes it my church?
2. What areas of our church life need to be reinvigorated?
3. How can I be more committed to sharing in the life of LVPC?
4. What gifts am I not sharing with this community of faith?
5. How can we as a church better witness to God's love in our community?

I'm sure there are many more questions to consider that will keep us focused on being faithful to following the Holy Spirit, promote our growing faith, and help us to be a community open to a changing world.

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There is much to celebrate and there is much work to do at LVPC. I have enjoyed being part of this congregation for the last six years and I am eager to continue in our shared mission moving forward.

God has given us the gift of carrying out Christ's work in the world. May we continue to experience God's abundant blessings as we take on the challenges and joys of this work together.



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.

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.

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.

From the Mission Committee

The mission committee thanks all who participated in this year's Angel Tree. We gave four families from the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, that

included twelve children, 59 gifts this year. In addition, 30 handmade scarves, 25 handmade hats and three pairs of gloves were given to Food Pantry clients.

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.

Evening Circle

The next meeting of the Women's Association Evening Circle will be held on **Wed., Jan. 15th, at 7 p.m. in the Getz Library**. We will be continuing the study from Presbyterian Women, An Abiding Hope. Lesson 3 is based on Exodus 4:18 - 13:16, and the key idea is that God's power brought about the Hebrew people's freedom, and the Passover meal still celebrates the miraculous night when God protected them. Author Janice Catron invites us to explore Exodus and Deuteronomy with her and see

together the promise of what our relationship with God can be. It is God our Redeemer who, by grace, gives us the power to help ourselves and others live into the fullness God intends for us, and to move forward as people who have been set free. Joni Nodes will lead us in the Bible study, and we will also have a time of prayer. All women are invited to attend this evening of informal fellowship. You may bring a light snack to share, and tea or coffee will be available. For more information, please call Joni Nodes at 236-7996 or Nancy Knight at 537-4347.

From the Stewardship Committee

We'd like to remind everyone how important it is to consider the pledge drive letter you received and return your completed pledge card ASAP. Your pledges help us plan next year's budget. Our gifts not only fund the work of our church, but challenge us to live with a focus beyond ourselves.

Christmas Tree Sale Recap

The LVPC Christmas Tree Sale profits this year reached \$5,753! Thoughtful selection by the mission committee will provide \$1,150.60 to each of the following local charitable organizations:

- Dr. Orlie Pell
- Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Open Cupboard Food Pantry
- Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity
- SAFE in Hunterdon

Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in our community!

Offering Envelopes

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

Call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

As provided in the by-laws of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, there shall be a meeting of the congregation in the Parish Hall following worship on **January 26, 2014**, for the purpose of receiving the annual reports of the Session and reviewing the 2014 budget.

- Other business to attend:
- We will elect a Nominating Committee for the year 2014
 - We will elect Elders for the Class of 2016
 - We will approve the Pastor's Terms of Call

All are welcome to attend. Only active members of the congregation have voice and vote.



Children's Ministry

The children of LVPC presented the sermon on December 22nd, with their Christmas play. This year they were joined by King Herod, played by Carl Weisman, and by Lucy Ernst as the baby Jesus. The play was enjoyed by a full house and lunch was served afterwards in the Parish Hall. Many thanks to all who helped with practices, costumes, scenery, music, and food. A very special thanks goes to Kim Rodgers for coordinating this effort, and to parents who taught lines and managed to include practices into their busy schedules. We especially thank the children who worked so hard to share the Christmas story with us.

Sunday School resumes this Sunday, January 5th, with a focus on John 1:(1-9), 10-18. Classes will hear John's description of Jesus as a shining light and consider the story of Jesus' birth in their own ways.

The Spiritual Formation of Children Team is currently seeking new members. If you are interested in joining this group, see Kim Rodgers. No

experience is necessary, and it is fun!



January 2014

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
5 AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Fellowship: 11 a.m., PH JN: 11:30-12:15, GL Journey: 6 p.m., Rogers' home	6	7 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	8	9	10	11
12 AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Fellowship: 11 a.m., PH JN: 11:30-12:15, GL	13	14 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	15 Evening Circle: 7 p.m., GL	16	17	18
19 Family Worship AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Fellowship: 11 a.m., PH JN: 11:30-12:15, GL Journey: 6 p.m., Rogers' home	20	21 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL Session: 7 p.m., GL	22 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH	23	24	25 Family Game Night: 6 p.m. PH
26 AR: 9-9:45 a.m., GL Congregational Meeting: 11:30 a.m., PH JN: 11:30-12:15, GL Journey: 6 p.m., Rogers' home	27	28 Sewing: 9:30 a.m., GL	29 The Channel: 7 p.m., PH	30	31	

GL: Getz Library
 PH: Parish House
 S: Sanctuary
 BC: Bible Cafe
 AR: Agape Ringers
 JN: Joyful Noise

Church Info:

Phone: 908-832-2933

E-mail: lowervalleypc@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

1/19: Stephanie Donlon

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

1/12: Sue Huntington

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)
January 5	Nancy Knight	Terry Hoffman Ed Getz	Kim Rodgers Stephanie Donlon Sally Zeiner Judy Eckwielen	Stetler OPEN OPEN
January 12	Warren Newman	Janet and Gary Kipp		Ernst OPEN OPEN
January 19 Family Worship	Judy Eckwielen	Cindy and Tim O'Keefe		O'Keefe OPEN OPEN
January 26	Dick Kline	Lisa Coffaro Isabel Roppolo		OPEN OPEN OPEN
February 2	Nancy Knight	Madeleine Argue Rich Ehrlich	Sally Zeiner Terry Hoffman May Saxton Warren Newman	
February 9	May Saxton	Renee and Jeff Ollerenshaw		
February 16 Family Worship	Marilyn El-Zahr	Stephanie and Jeff Donlon		
February 23	OPEN	Donna and John Leddie		

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!

January 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.