

# Parish Happenings

MARCH 2013

From the moment Kim and I first learned she was pregnant we started reading. That is just how we are wired. There are not too many systems for raising children and creating a happy family that we haven't read about over the years. Whether it was about getting your baby to sleep through the night, handling discipline, or raising kids to be lovers of God's creation, one or both of us have read a book with suggestions and strategies. And, we have taken some wisdom from many if not most of those books.

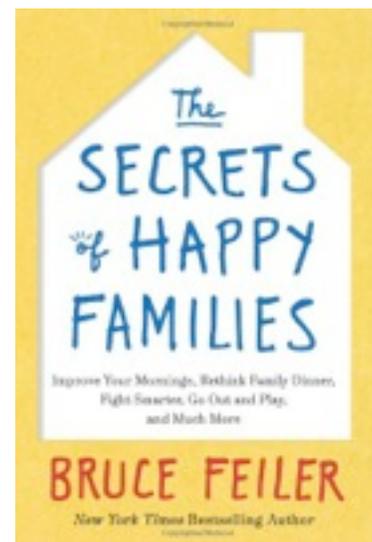
One thing was always clear to us: there is no "Holy Grail" out there! No one has all the answers and there is certainly more than one way to raise children and manage a family. Don't misunderstand me; I do believe there are plenty of bad ideas out there. (First and foremost, the pastor in me thinks, that setting your children afloat on an ocean of ideas to find their own way without any spiritual foundation is ludicrous.) Those of you who know me well are aware that I've got plenty of opinions.

Just this week I finished reading another one of these such books. I was driving back from a Presbytery book study when I heard Bruce Feiler being interviewed on WNYC. Feiler is a journalist and author who writes a regular column, on contemporary family life, for the New York Times. He just came out with a book titled, *The Secrets of Happy Families: Improve Your Mornings, Rethink Family Dinner, Fight Smarter, Go Out and Play and Much More*.

Now the title alone was enough to intrigue me — what parent doesn't want to improve mornings alone? However, listening to Feiler talk about the premise of the book was still more intriguing. First, rather than going to the usual suspects he simply started talking to families that work to find out what they were doing and then he researched why these practices might be working.

It wasn't unlike the premise of a book in the realm of church that I've often mentioned. In *Christianity for the Rest of Us* Diana Butler Bass undertook a similar process. She wanted to know what thriving congregations were doing. Several of the discoveries she highlighted in that book have become, or are becoming, practices at LVPC. One of the first we worked on was hospitality — some of you may remember a time when church ended and the congregation drifted off like a lifting fog.

Another focus has been our Sunday worship. The session spent much of the last year studying, reflecting, and thinking about the main thing we do together. We will very soon be establishing a



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worship team that will work at designing worship that reflects our discussions, discoveries, and our whole community. I think this is a very exciting time for our congregation.

Now back to Feiler's book for a few moments. One of his discoveries was "agile development" of which he writes, "Today, agile (the word is used as a collective) is standard practice in a hundred countries, and two-thirds of all software is developed using its philosophy." It is a system of decentralizing organizational power and empowering teams to use certain feed back mechanisms to more effectively reach their goals. What Feiler found was that quite a few people who used this strategy at work were bringing it home and applying it to families.

Now, I realize that business gurus have been trying to paste their wisdom on the church, with limited success, for decades (I've read plenty of those books too). However, what intrigued me about agile was the reason for its success. "The business guru Tom

Peters said "agile organizations win" because they're not bound by fixed rules. They have the freedom to create new rules."

Did you catch that? This model for business, that has successfully been adapted to family life, works because, "they have the freedom to create new rules." For too long our churches have been stuck. Often by systems and tradition that are not even biblical. We need to be a people and a community that can adapt and change the rules when we need too. We're already doing this in some ways: our kids don't always get sent to the basement (they do art in the *front* of the sanctuary during worship).

I'm curious what other ideas are out there for adaptation, transformation, that will benefit our life together. I'd love to hear what you've been thinking about. And if you're a parent check out the book it is worth the read.



## **Evening Circle**

The next meeting of the Evening Circle will be on **Wed. March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Getz Library.** We will be continuing the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study on the General Epistles (1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John, and Jude). The lesson, entitled "The Ties that Bind," will be based on **1 Peter 3**. It promises to generate some interesting discussion, since it deals with the relationship between husbands and wives! If you are bringing your youth to The Channel, this is a good time to see what you've been missing. Join us for light refreshments, Bible study prayer and fellowship. Joni Nodes plans to lead the lesson, and we will each bring a small favorite snack or dessert to share. Call Joni at 236-7996 or Nancy at 537-4347 for more information (in bad weather the meeting may be postponed or cancelled).

## **Open Cupboard Food Pantry**

The Open Cupboard Food Pantry believes we have a responsibility to fill the very

basic need for food for those in need.

The food pantry depends entirely on donations of groceries, personal care and cleaning items for the Pantry. Monetary donations allow them to buy perishables such as meat, produce and dairy products in addition to basic groceries as needed.

Currently the most needed items are:

- Beef soup or stew
- Pea soup
- SPAM
- Canned peas, carrots and potatoes
- Canned peaches, pears and applesauce
- Canned ravioli
- Elbow pasta
- 100% apple juice
- Coffee
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent

### **Fellowship Hosts Needed**

We are in need of volunteers to host coffee and conversation. There will be a sign up sheet in the kitchen each Sunday. Host alone or with friends! Expenses can be

reimbursed. If you have questions, contact Lisa Coffaro at [coffaro423@comcast.net](mailto:coffaro423@comcast.net) or 832-0409.

### **Liturgists Needed**

We are looking for people to be a liturgist. The following dates are open: 3/24, 3/31 (Easter), 4/28, 5/26, 6/30, 7/28, 9/22, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27. No experience is necessary. If you are interested, please let Claudia know or speak with Pastor Chad.

### **Spiritual Formation of Children**

The children of LVPC are visible! Our church community sees them on Sunday mornings enjoying the children's message, playing the chimes and the bells, creating art works during family worship, and loving the goodies at coffee and conversation. Behind the scenes, The Journey and The Channel meet once a week while Sunday School meets regularly. Please engage a child in conversation next Sunday. They are a joyous gift in our church.

The Spiritual Formation of Children committee recently met, and welcomed new member, Natalie Gast. Natalie, her husband Erik and two young daughters, Rachel and Sophie joined us in September. They formerly went to the Meyersville Presbyterian Church in Gillette, NJ. Discussion at the meeting centered on a Sunday School Teacher Retreat in April, Family Worship ideas for children, VBS, and the Easter/Pentecost Season. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 26. If you would be interested in sharing in the discussions of how to lead our children to an experience of God, please contact Kim Rodgers.

### **About "The Journey" by Kim Rodgers:**

One sure way to wrestle with issues of faith is to hang out with high school students. Often times we are resistant to ask ourselves questions having to do with faith because we're afraid of not having an answer. This year Chad and I have been encouraging the

students to ask these kind of questions. Don't freak out! Asking questions is a good thing. If we don't allow them, and ourselves, to ask these kind of questions faith is stagnant. So, we are diving into questions like, "Why do you come to church?", "Why do we follow Jesus and his teachings?", or "Do you want to be a follower of Jesus?", "What draws you to God?" We aren't trying to make church "fun" (although we do have fun eating yummy treats like caramel and apples while hearing the ins and out of high school life), but to make church an authentic place to be, a place where real conversations about faith can take place. My hope is that these kinds of conversations begin to happen at Coffee Hour and at Session meetings and at the new Mom's Group (you guys really need to come up with a catchy name!). These kinds of faith discussions are not reserved for students only. If faith is going to grow and live within us we need to talk, question, wrestle,

struggle, live out what we hear about in the sermon or read in our Bibles or devotionals. I'm excited to see where these questions take our high school students...and myself! My faith grows when I hang out with them and I'm thankful to God for that.

### **ASP Soup Fundraiser**

The congregation can help the people going on the ASP trip by making and purchasing soup.

For the next couple of months we will be looking for volunteers to make soup, 2 different kinds a week. And, we will be selling it during coffee and conversation.

Large size will be \$10.00. Small size will be \$5.00. The containers will be provided by the church. If you are interested in making soup please contact Lisa Coffaro: [coffaro423@comcast.net](mailto:coffaro423@comcast.net) or 832-0409. All the money will go towards the cost of the trip for each person going. People going on the trip are encouraged to make the soups but anyone can volunteer.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

### **Maundy Thursday (3/28):**

Communion Service: 7 p.m., Parish House

***(Please note: please let Pastor Chad know if you need child care during the Maundy Thursday service)***

### **Good Friday (3/29):**

Prayer Vigil: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sanctuary

### **Easter Sunday (3/31):**

Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m. with breakfast following

Family Worship: 10 a.m.

## Easter Flower Order Form

(orders are due with payment by 3/24)

If you would like to order Easter Flowers to decorate our sanctuary, please fill out the order form below and drop it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Prices listed below include foil. Please indicate the desired quantity and enclose payment with your order.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower	Price	Qty	Total Cost
Mini Daffodil	\$2.50	_____	_____
Daffodil (6")	\$5.50	_____	_____
Easter Lily (5-6 blooms)	\$7.50	_____	_____
Tulip (6 blooms)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Tulip (8 blooms)	\$8.00	_____	_____

### Session Members

Here is a list of our current session members and their phone numbers:

**Lisa Coffaro:** 832-0409

**John Leddie:** 537-9622

**Stephanie Donlon:** 537-2604

**Lyn Magee:** 832-2142

**Wendy Garcia:** 867-7186

**Kim Rodgers:** 832-0956

**Terry Hoffman:** 689-7646

**Warren Newman:** 638-4332

**May Saxton** (clerk): 537-4963

# March 2013

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 <u>Fellowship</u> : 11 a.m. <u>Joyful Noise Practice</u> : 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. <u>Journey</u> : 6-7:30p.m., Chad and Kim's home	4 <u>Adult Bells</u> : 7:15 p.m., PH	5 <u>Sewing</u> : 9:30 a.m., GL <u>Worship Committee Mtg</u> : 7 p.m., GL	6 <u>The Channel</u> : 7 p.m., PH	7	8	9
10 <u>Joyful Noise warmup</u> : 9:15 a.m. <u>Fellowship</u> : 11 a.m. <u>Celebration Chimes Practice</u> : 11:30 a.m. <u>Journey</u> : 6 -7:30 p.m., Chad and Kim's home	11 <u>Adult Bells</u> : 7:15 p.m., PH	12 <u>Sewing</u> : 9:30 a.m., GL	13 <u>The Channel</u> : 7 p.m., PH	14	15	16
17 <b>Family Worship</b> <u>Fellowship</u> : 11 a.m. <u>Celebration Chimes Practice</u> : 11:30 a.m. <u>Joyful Noise Ringers Practice</u> : 12 p.m. <u>Journey</u> : 6 -7:30 p.m., Chad and Kim's home	18	19 <u>Sewing</u> : 9:30 a.m., GL Session: 7 p.m., GL	20 <u>The Channel</u> : 7 p.m., PH <u>Evening Circle</u> : 7 p.m., GL	21	22	23
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <u>Fellowship</u> : 11 a.m. <u>Celebration Chimes Practice</u> : 11:30 a.m. <u>Joyful Noise Ringers Practice</u> : 12 p.m. <u>Journey</u> : 6 -7:30 p.m., Chad and Kim's home	25 <u>Adult Bells</u> : 7:15 p.m., S	26 <u>Sewing</u> : 9:30 a.m., GL	27 <u>The Channel</u> : 7 p.m., PH	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	29 <b>Good Friday</b>	30
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b>						

# Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship Host(s)
March 3	Sue Huntington	Stephanie and Jeff Donlon	Sue Huntington Renee Ollerenshaw Sally Zeiner-Morrish Stephanie Donlon	McKinnon/Garcia
March 10 Family Worship	Kim Rodgers	Lisa and Chris Coffaro		Joni Nodes Linda Stetler
March 17 — visiting preacher	Dick Kline	Donna and John Leddie		Haggerty
March 24 Palm Sunday	<b>TBD</b>	Nancy and David Knight		Renee Ollerenshaw
March 31 Easter Sunday Family Worship	<b>TBD</b>	Karen and Warren Newman		Parish Life
April 7	Warren Newman	Renee and Jeff Ollerenshaw	Kim Rodgers Ed Getz Terry Hoffman <b>TBD</b>	
April 14	Nancy Knight	Ed Getz Madeleine Argue		
April 21	Judy Eckwielen	Janet and Gary Kipp		
April 28 Family Worship	Kim Rodgers	Linda Stetler Terry Hoffman		

**If you are able to serve in one of the TBD spots, please let Claudia in the office know. Thanks!**

March 2013

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.