



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

211 Lansdowne Road, Havertown, PA 19083

610-789-1639; www.llanerchpres.org

SEPTEMBER 2015 News and Notes

Brothers and Sisters,

One of the places my family and I had the privilege of visiting while we were in Kansas this past month was a place called Fort Bissell. You're going to think, "Huh. Kansas. Late 1800's. Violent Indians. White settlers. Of course. There was a military installation there called Fort Bissell from which the United States Army (specifically the cavalry) rode out to keep people safe." As one of the well-known Saturday morning college football commentators is known for saying every week—"not so fast my friends."

Fort Bissell was a civilian fort. Because Kansas was one of the places new immigrants and others were settling, and because there were native peoples who had inhabited the plains for thousands of years, there were natural concerns and tensions. And people built "forts," not to occupy and live in constantly (like the army cavalry was known for doing), but to have available "in case of emergency." So, homesteaders would identify a location with natural features that allowed it to be easily supplied and defended. "Forts" were constructed of large poles that look like upside-down nails, put together without gaps. Inside, there were places to hide; but essentially the design was for the fort to be occupied by civilians for a short period of time.

In the case of Fort Bissell, it worked like this. Homesteaders for several miles around built the fort. Occasionally, word would come that the Indians were headed that way. Being fearful, and hearing rumors of violent skirmishes, or having witnessed or been victims of violence, the homesteaders abandoned their farms and went to the fort and closed and locked the gates. In every recorded incident, the story went something like this. The Indians had run out of food or needed supplies or were somehow in need, so they headed to their "neighbors"—who just happened to be the homesteaders. The homesteaders, afraid the Indians might rob them at gunpoint or worse, threaten and do harm to their families, left their property and "hid out in the fort." While the homesteaders were hiding out in the fort, the Indians helped themselves to chickens, tools, and anything else they thought they could use—not destroying crops or property, just borrowing a few things in a hard time.

Now I'm just one of those people who believes just enough that when Jesus tells us to love our neighbor, to love our enemy, and to share what we have, I'm inclined to think this might be a mighty fine way of working out our problems, and especially our fears about other people. I kept wondering to myself, what kind of world the Indians and homesteaders could have made together if the homesteaders first chose not to give into their fears by running to protect themselves, and instead, loved their neighbors by sharing with them.

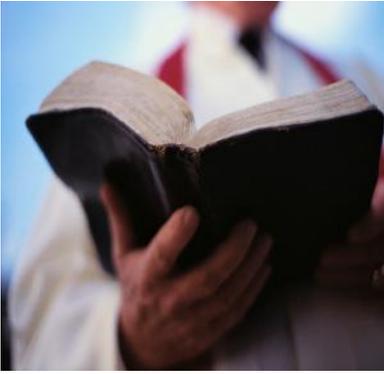
My guess is that after much time, the Indians felt less charitable. These new people were taking away the land and the resources the native peoples had survived on for a very long time. And, my guess is, that having seen the Indians be less than charitable, the homesteaders were less inclined to offer second or third chances to be victimized. But we have a chance, not to rewrite history the way we want to see it, but to see our history and ask ourselves, "that didn't work out so well, so how might we make a difference now."

Oh yeah, and we have Jesus telling us that loving our neighbor, and sharing, and being charitable are the touchstones of the Kingdom of God which we believe is way-better, of course, than the promises of wealth and privilege that we live with today.

I'm thankful that our congregation is seeking to build the kind of community where we can pursue shared values and the work of loving neighbors and enemies. Jesus heals the sick, makes the blind to see, and promises restoration and hope for the lost. That's our legacy. To help those who are hurting, to restore those who have been victimized, to hold together what others would tear apart. So come all the way into the life of our congregation where we believe loving God and neighbor makes for a great community of endless possibility and peace. Help us create space to share, build community, to understand more and fear less. Be a part of the ongoing work of the Kingdom of God that is renewed and restored. And I hope to see you in Church!

David R. Hipp-Bethune

Worship & Music News



Worship in SEPTEMBER

Remember these things about worship in September:

1. Labor Day Weekend is September 6th—worship still begins at 10:00am and will include the celebration of our Lord’s Supper.
2. Sunday, September 13th will mark the return of worship starting at 11:00am. We will also have a “Blessing of the Backpacks” and a Commissioning of our Sunday School program for 2015 and 2016!
3. September 20th Sunday School classes begin, and we will celebrate Theological Education Sunday, and the ministry of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Seminaries!
4. September 27th is the weekend of the Papal visit to Philadelphia. Please pray for the city and our region as many pilgrims descend for the visit; and join us in worship before the festivities of the day kick off. Prayer for our Catholic brothers and sisters during this special time and for the message Pope Francis brings for us and for the whole world.

DATE:	CELEBRATION:	FIRST READING:	GOSPEL:
August 30th	14 th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 35: 4-7a	Mark 7: 24-37
September 6th	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 35: 4-7a	Mark 7: 24-31
September 13th	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Mark 8: 27-38
September 20th	17 th Sunday after Pentecost Theological Education and Seminary Sunday	Jeremiah 11: 18-20	Mark 9: 30-37
September 27th	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16	Mark 9: 38-50

How to invite a friend to Church.

It’s best if you practice. So, just before you’re ready to leave for church, you look nice, you hair’s in place, take an extra 3 minutes. Stand in front of your mirror and watch yourself. Here are some suggested lines, and by watching yourself, you can memorize the lines AND make sure you look good doing it.

1. I’m going to church on Sunday, you want to come with me?
2. My church is moving back to the regular schedule next Sunday. We worship at 11 A.M. If you want, I can give you a ride.
3. Hey? You want to go to Church? I know a great place to worship and meet cool people.

Now you see how easy it is. And when the moment strikes, you know what to say and just “how” to say it. Now get out there and go to church, and don’t forget to invite a friend!

Church News & Events

Church-Goers



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch returns to its regular, non-summer worship hour of 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th!

Don't forget the "time change" in September. Worship returns to its 11:00am time slot, with Sunday School during the worship hour on Sunday, September 13th! Sunday School classes will commence on September 20th!

You don't have to turn your clock back—that happens in November. You do have to reset your worship routine!

Join us for worship on Sunday, September 13th at 11:00am when our service will include a "Blessing of the Backpacks" for all school and pre-school students, as well as teachers, administrators, professors, and school workers! No backpack is too big, no grading book too small! Start the year off with a blessing for you and your friends and colleagues! Backpacks will be gathered during worship and blessed by the whole congregation!

Blessing of the Backpacks



Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, September 23rd, Llanerch is hosting a neighborhood Ice Cream Social! Our CE Team and Preschool staff are working together, there'll be ice cream and toppings and loads of fun. Join us at 6:30 for a special celebration with Church and Preschool families and the neighborhood! See. Ya. There.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia is looking for participants for a new Leadership Event especially for Ruling Elders and Deacons. It's a mid-week course, meeting on Thursdays at the Presbytery Office in the Mt. Airy neighborhood off Stenton Avenue near Chestnut Hill.

Historical and Biblical facts and leadership skills will be explored, as well as up-to-date information on the Book of Order and Presbyterian policy and procedures and how they impact our work together as congregational leaders. ALL Ruling Elders and Deacons are encouraged—NEW Ruling Elders and Deacons especially! Details below!



*We invite all church officers to gather at the Presbytery office for this **EIGHT-WEEK SERIES** as we foster space for learning, growing, and serving our congregations together.*

Primary Themes

Encourage, Equip, Empower, Engage

- Vocation—Called to Serve
- Biblical Models of Leadership
- From Whence We Come— A Brief Historical Overview
- What We Believe—Understanding the Essentials of Our Faith
- How We Do Church—Understanding Our Overall Organizational Structure
- Reflecting Healthy Leadership
- Theology of the Table-Jesus' Table, that is!
- Temptations of Leadership
- More...

This pilot series (designed for deacons, elders, and trustees), provides the Biblical, historical, and theological context for our understanding of the roles of lay leadership. This initiative also addresses the structures and strategies in our church and in our lives that maximize our effectiveness as leaders.

Join us as we build community while deepening our skills for our common mission!

Generosity



YOU CAN MAKE FINANCIAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES ONLINE!

You can make one-time or schedule monthly or weekly gifts using your checking or saving's account or credit card.

The easiest access is to go online to our church website, www.llanerchpres.org, click on the "DONATE" tab on our homepage and then click on the "Give Now"

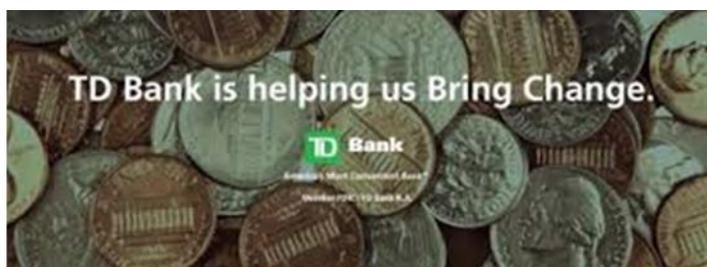
button that appears on that page (the "give now" button looks like the one heading this article).

Alternately, if you have a tablet or a smartphone, you can scan this QR code to go directly to our giving portal page.

If you have questions about online giving, please contact Rev. Stipp-Bethune or our session members.



STAY TUNED FOR ONLINE GIVING WORKSHOPS COMING TO OUR CHURCH THIS FALL!!!!

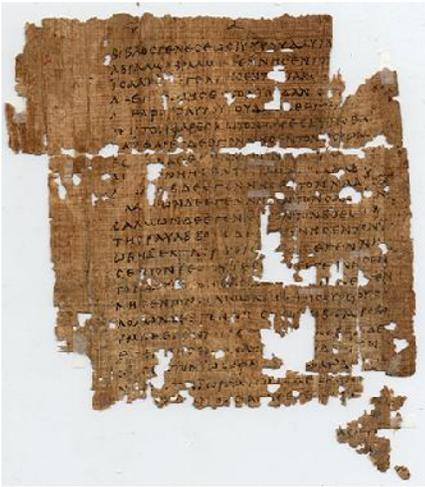


David Gibson and his family have been selected to be the recipient of a new program from TD bank; we are asking that you collect change, donate it at the TD on Springfield Road in Broomall on October 23rd, and TD will match up to the first \$2000! This will be a huge help to offset some of the mounting costs for David's treatments, and with a little help, we can all bring about a little change!

Look for the coin containers in the Fellowship Room.

MISSISON NEWS

Our offering for the food pantry at Chester Eastside Ministries in Chester will be received on September 20. Please be generous as you plan your shopping this month. Traditionally, we have recognized the start of the school season by providing supplies for nutritious breakfasts, especially kid-friendly cereals. All donations are welcome, as are grocery scrip that can be used on a case-by-case basis by Rev. Warren.



A new temporary exhibit at the University of Pennsylvania Museum on "Sacred Writings: Extraordinary Texts of the Biblical World" features a rare papyrus fragment of the Gospel of Matthew and a cuneiform tablet recounting the flood story retold in Genesis. The exhibit was planned in coordination with the World Meeting of Families but will be on view until November 8, 2015. Please let Kate Hiebert know if you would like to come by during weekday hours when she will be happy to see you there and show you around if she's not in the classroom. Her contribution to the exhibit consisted entirely of training the exhibition staff to use a sewing machine, but there's a lot of other interesting things to see.

<http://www.penn.museum/upcoming-exhibits/1205-sacred-writings.html>

Ways You Can Help



Our Llanerch Presbyterian Preschool is Looking for More Registrations!

If you know anyone who could use a top-quality, wonderful, amazing Preschool experience for their children, please share the word about our Preschool! Brochures are available at Church. We're currently taking registrations for the next school year that begins in September—and it's not too late! Great teachers, a welcoming staff, amazing stories, 60 years' experience! We'd like to share this gem with the community and help change the world—one preschooler at a time. This is part of the mission work and outreach of your congregation!



We need Worship Leaders and Ushers

One of the worship values we hope to create is that worship belongs to the people as an expression of our diversity and inclusivity. The good news of Jesus Christ is that people "belong." We believe there is a place for everyone at Llanerch. And one of the ways we live that out, is inviting people to participate in worship! From reading and leading worship to opening the

doors and greeting we need willing volunteers with bright shiny faces ready to help members, friends, and guests, experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Sign up by talking to Rev. Stipp-Bethune or sending an e-mail to the Church Office.



<u>PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN</u>			
	EVENT	DAY/DATE	LOCATION
	The Abigail Circle	TBD	???
	The Lydia Circle	TBD	???

<u>HELPING AND GETTING HELP</u>			
Do you need a ride to church or know someone who does?	If you need a ride to church, the Deacons are happy to help! Or, if you or someone you know needs a meal, or a visit, please contact our Deacons.	Please see or call Vicki Murphy (610.446.0637) or any member of the Deacons.	
Monthly Care Closet Offering:	Will next be received on Sunday, September 20 th .	If you know someone in need, please speak with Rev. Stipp-Bethune or Vicki Murphy	



Overview of New Beginnings for an Individual Church *Including Outcomes for Each Step Along the Way*

Phase One: Assessment (One Day)



Your assigned assessor spends a portion of that day with you, per the letter she or he will send to you. You are expected to arrange for people to do the building tour, the community tour, the meeting to review finances and the calendar. Your assessor meets with the pastor and the clerk over dinner and then either leads or takes notes at a feedback evening session with the congregation. The presbytery is involved in finding a facilitator for that evening. The assessor will take notes on what you or she learned and goes home and writes your report.

Outcomes: Your New Beginnings report.

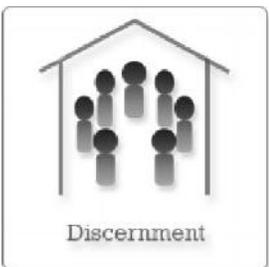
Phase Two: Leader Training (Four hours)



The church will receive a little over four hours of training. During this training we introduce you to the foundational concepts undergirding New Beginnings, teach you how to read your report and how to plan for your small group meetings. We spend a little time on leading change in small groups, but the majority of the time is on understanding the report and the ongoing process itself. You want to have anywhere from 5 to 7 people on the team that should be willing to consider being small group leaders for the next phase. You will also serve on the team that will oversee the New Beginnings process. This training is offered in person on a weeknight, typically running as a working dinner meeting from 5 to 9 pm. It can also be done during the day if you prefer.

Outcomes: Leaders ready to run the process plus your small group meeting process ready to launch.

Phase Three: Discernment (typically 6 weeks)



The House Meetings (small group meetings held in homes or at the church) should involve at least 50% of the worshipping congregation to discuss the report. The schedule for these meetings is determined by your church. Participants will engage the conversation about what they believe is God's mission for the church. Through conversations about the report and questions, you will begin to name and claim what you feel God is calling you to do and how in your community.

Outcomes: A recommended decision for your church's future from each small group.

Phase Four: Decision (usually takes a minimum of 6 weeks)



Each congregation does this step a little differently, but it is when you bring together the results of all the groups and make a decision together. Typically the leaders of the small groups report pull together their results, report to Session and then make a report to the congregation.

Final Outcome: A decision about the future of the congregation.
