



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

211 Lansdowne Road, Havertown, PA 19083

610-789-1639; www.llanerchpres.org

APRIL 2016 News and Notes

Brothers and Sisters,

The old saying is: “April showers bring May flowers.” And for most of my growing up years in the south, this wasn’t true—the flowers and blossoms and grasses of spring came in February and March; and by April it could be lush and unseasonably warm! “April showers” were better known as “Spring Storms;” but with accompanying hail and tornadoes, were seldom seen as life-saving or life-perpetuating necessities. What “April Showers”—and “Spring Storms,” even—remind me of is baptism.

Whenever it rains, I think about baptism and the reminder someone offered to me a while back—“remember your baptism,” as we were forced out into a rainstorm.

Today, even though it’s just barely April, the rains that come will mean remembering my baptism as the water lands on my face, on my head, and dampens my clothes—reminding me of God’s cascading love and God’s strong call to be at work in the world. Baptism—WATER—is my reminder that I’m a part of the family of God—claimed and called and sent out to witness in the world!

But this is true rain or shine! And I’ve found myself thinking a lot lately about what that means for us as a congregation—how God is claiming, calling, and sending us out as God’s people—into the world as God’s means of providing sustenance for beauty that is to come. The rain is not only a sign, but an effectual means of bringing about the flowers that bloom. Baptism is not just a sign of salvation or our inclusion in God’s family, but meant, too, as the vehicle for provisioning blossoms of its own.

Too often the Church has seen this as the means to perpetuate itself. Not, “April showers bring May’s flowers,” but something like April’s showers means more water, and more water, and more water—so that we can save it up for the drought. Rather than God’s grace poured out, we’ve seen our role as God’s grace stored up. Rather than water changed to wine, enough for everyone to have many glasses; it’s wine distributed with an eye-dropper, trying to ensure the best is saved until last.

God is calling us to be poured out, and poured out with a purpose. For a long time our narrative has been to live out of a model of saving for a rainy day. It was a way of “being church” that was mostly comfortable and familiar and sought to be steady, persistent, and not risk. But today, the ministry needs are so great, saving is really a futile attempt. As one of my colleagues offered at a recent conference, “No church ever cut its budget to success; you have to grow the budget.” The operative rule is contrary to all common sense. You have to spend more to get more.

The lush flowers of May depend not on getting just the right amount of “April showers,” but rather the benefit of an abundance. There’s enough, and then some. The best flowers have more than enough of April showers without being too much! It’s a delicate balance. Because “just enough” stresses the plants and invites them to ration and there are always blooms and pretty-ness—just not spectacular pretty-ness.

God is calling us as a congregation to be a blessing of April showers for a world that needs spectacular May flowers. God is calling us to be generous and abundant in our support of God’s work in the world, to be living examples of the love of Jesus, and offer a hope that witnesses to Jesus. In this Easter season, we offer the world a taste of new life and second chances. But it relies on our seeing ourselves as vessels to be poured out, rather than reservoirs just saved up.

So when it rains, I’m remembering God poured out for us—claiming us, calling us, and especially sending us out to share with the world. When I feel the water, I ask more intentionally, “Where are you sending me, God?” I invite myself to consider how God is stirring my heart, and what God may be yearning to grow not just in me, but through me—in the lives I might touch, in the people I might meet, in the places I might be able to go.

So that we’re not just a Church that is waiting for the kingdom of God for when we die; but that we’re actively building the Kingdom of God on earth, together! If April showers bring May’s flowers, how might God be calling us and sending us out to serve. Come help us answer these and other questions at Church; and then join us in sharing the answers outside of Church!

David L. Hipp-Bethune



Worship in APRIL

The Easter season is often carefully choreographed liturgical drama where we celebrate Jesus' resurrection for 50 days. It's a difficult challenge because we have way too much time dedicated to just a handful of stories about Jesus' resurrection. There just aren't enough stories of Jesus' resurrection to cover 7 Sundays. And, some of the stories we do have, leave us seriously wondering about what really did happen—including Mark's gospel that reports no one saying anything to anyone about what happened. But contrary to this testimony, obviously, someone, sometime, spilled the beans and began telling the story about how Jesus died and was raised.

And we've extrapolated a number of other things about what Jesus' resurrection means for believers.

This Easter season, join us at Llanerch as we attempt to touch the stories of the first believers in a little different way, seeing if we can identify and fashion a pattern for how the Church moves from individual first-believers to transformed communities of faith. We're going to ask what our modern patterns and practices have in common with the earliest Christian community and seek to discern an answer to the question, "What is Church?" Or, maybe we'll discover that how we've been doing church could really use a make-over! Come listen for a word of direction, possibility, and hope as we strive to be living witnesses and examples of the death and resurrection of Jesus!

DATE:	CELEBRATION:	FIRST READING:	GOSPEL:
April 3 rd	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 5: 27-32	John 20: 19-31
April 10 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20)	John 21: 1-19
April 17 th	4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 9: 36-43	John 10: 22-30
April 24 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 11: 1-18	John 13: 31-35

CHOIR NEWS

Handbell Choir will continue to rehearse Sundays at 9:30 AM

Senior Choir on Thursdays at 7:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE – MUSIC MINISTRY SUNDAY – MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 8

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Christian Education Team is providing a simple *pre-Sunday School experience for our younger children—our 3, 4, and 5 year olds* who aren't yet reading. These learning and story-telling opportunities will be held on the FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH—this month, April 3rd.



CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month, too—Sunday, April 3rd! Our Care Closet Cans were recently upgraded by our Children's Sunday School; so please remember to bring yours on the first Sunday!

JOIN US!

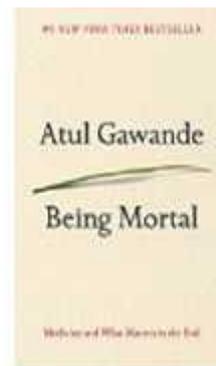
LENTEN DEVOTIONAL, BOOK STUDY, AND FUN OPPORTUNITIES

Being Mortal – A Llanerch Discussion

At the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

Friday, April 8 at 7:00pm in the soft seating area of the Fellowship Room

This discussion is for Llanerch members and friends to gather and talk about the book before the Community Discussion on the 24th. Come and share your insights and gain from others' experience, too



Being Mortal Panel Discussion

At the Haverford Library

Sunday, April 24, 2 PM

This panel discussion is open to the community and is all about end of life care. Join Lankenau Chaplain Casey Bien-Aime, a Gerontology physician and a representative from Donohue Funeral Home for a talk about values and decisions that we're often too reluctant to talk about.

MISSISON NEWS

In March, members and friends of the church worked together to serve the needs of Delaware County's most vulnerable as we supported the Connect by Night program in partnership with Christ Community Church at Riverview. Every other night in March, we have provided an evening snack, a bag lunch, and fellowship as homeless adults met in the shelter set up at Riverview. About 50 people were served each evening. Members of the church offered every form of love in the form of shopping, cooking, praying,

gathering of toiletries and socks, making sandwiches, delivering supplies, serving, donating money for the shoppers, and reaching out to others who could help us do this work. Perhaps most spectacular was John Trainer's musical evening late in the month when he performed light piano music for the guests as a group of Girl Scouts served the meal that they had prepared.

Fervent thanks to the following families and individuals:

Santoro Family and scouts from Troop 434, Greene family and friends, Guilfoil family and friends, Phyllis and Paul Gibson, Jerry and Eileen Spinelli, Mary Anne Rahn, Debbie Patton and family, Schmoll Family, Sara and Bob Taylor, Heins Family, Hiebert Family, Pokorny Family, Jeanne Wilkins, Lisa Ross and Marc Gallicchio, Cecile and Mark Burgert, Greene Family and scouts from Troop 434, Gross Family and friends from Temple Adath Israel, Ulf Timme and Cubs from Pack 462, Sisters from ZBT on the Penn Campus led by Courtney Dougherty, Vicki Murphy and her team of Perchalskis, Yardlee Kaufmann and a team from the University of the Sciences, Johanna Everett and team of Girl Scouts, Christina Jones and a team of Girls Scouts, Kathy Solari and Family, John Trainer, Joanne and John Janos, Ann Garnett.

NEWS FROM CHESTER EASTSIDE MINISTRIES:



Here's an excerpt from the Chester Eastside newsletter about the impact of the Food Center we have been supporting in several ways. One thing to note is how important it is that our church (and others) offer support all during the year. Our donations are dedicated to God on the 3rd Sunday of every month (April 17 this month) but they can be received any time. Make a donation part of your shopping planning, remember our Mother's Day Diaper Drive as you look over coupons, and see Rosemary or John Trainer if you can help their team which has been making the deliveries to Chester.

"Food is so central to our daily lives that it's easy to take it for granted. Not so the over 700 people, more than 300 of them children, who are helped, month in and month out, by Chester Eastside, Inc.'s Food Center. It's one of the biggest such operations in Delaware County. The figures are mind-boggling: In 2015 alone, the equivalent of over 120,000 meals. But it's when you bring it down to human terms that you see what this can mean in people's lives. Listen to Kim, mother of four children: "I visit the food center

monthly. The food center helps me make the food last. I can stretch things for a week and make sure my children have food to eat." And John: "The Food Center helps me at the end of the month. I don't know what I would do without this food. I combine it with odds and ends so that I have enough to eat. I have used other cupboards in the past. This one has meat and I love that I can get a hot meal here at the same time." Meat and a hot meal. Basics for most of us. An urgent matter if you happen to be down and out.

It's not just the food. There's a climate of acceptance, respect, and caring that's not always present at food cupboards, unfortunately. One woman put it this way: "Sometimes they can be downright nasty, but here they are always pleasant and kind."

That spirit of acceptance can come from once having been in the same position as those who now come for food. As one man put it, "I was in a dark place when I finally realized that I needed help with food and clothing. I would let my struggles affect how I acted. For a long time I was too proud to ask for help. It hurt

too much. Then I overheard my friends who work with Chester Eastside talking about how much they wanted to give to someone who was truly in need, and finally I forced myself to say, 'That person is me.' I do not know where I would be today without the Food Center. Chester Eastside helped me and my family hold on when my situation was desperate. Everyone was so kind. Now I volunteer with Chester Eastside and it has changed me. Everyone has their own trouble and hurt that they are going through. When I am here, I put all that aside, and I speak to all our visitors with a kind word and a smile. Whatever their struggle is, I want to show them that they are welcome and there is help for them." Mary is another volunteer who is doing some give-back. She first became involved with the Food Center when it was still at the old location. There she enrolled in cooking classes, where she got to take home ingredients to use her new cooking skills there. When Chester Eastside moved up the street to St.Paul's, she moved with it.

Chris, another volunteer, says is it all: "Thank God for Chester Eastside!"

SCOUTING NEWS

Scouting was active all over town this month, as traditional favorite activities took place at the Church and beyond. For the Cub Scouts of Pack 462, March is Pinewood Derby month at Chatham Park School, but Den 4, which meets in the Church, also gathered a group of families to make lunches for Connect by Night this month. They also crafted fabulous "Star Wars" table decorations for their annual banquet. At that banquet on April 2, the oldest group of cub scouts will "cross over" in to the Boy Scout troop. In preparation for that, those older Webelos scouts got to go camping with Troop 434 when they went to Camp Hart at the Musser Scout Reservation. Some campers slept in open lodges and some in the cabins as they practiced the independent skills that are the hallmark of scouting.



The troop was active in the service of Church Mission this month as they provided lunches for Connect on two nights. Thanks to Meg Santoro for leading these boys and their families. Service to the community was also celebrated as Kevin Connell was awarded his Eagle Scout rank in a ceremony at the church on March 5. Kevin is the son of Scoutmaster Francis O'Connell and his wife Terry; he designed and built kiosks for the Riverbend Nature Center for his Eagle Project. Congratulations to all the Connells. More Eagle Scout projects and ceremonies are planned for the months to come.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING NEWS



WE'RE GLAD TO MAKE ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING TO OUR CONGREGATION.

You can make secure, online gifts to our congregation by using our web portal provided by the Presbyterian Foundation. It takes less than a minute, and your pledged giving can go directly from your checking/savings account to our Church account. You can schedule your gifts for the whole year, make contributions monthly, or give weekly. If you haven't tried it, you might like it!

Access the "Give Now" Button on the "Donate" tab on our website, or use your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code on the right!



Your stewardship at work

Thank you for your support and generosity. Below is a list of all the ways your support is helping to fulfill the mission of The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch. There is more to come and hope you will support us and join us throughout the year!

Following our Mission Statements:

-) The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch is an inclusive Christian community whose members have been: saved by God's grace, united by God in Jesus Christ, and given by God as a light to the nations.
-) Our mission is patterned after the example of Jesus Christ, who came "not to be served but to serve."
-) As those who trust God's promise to be with us always, we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to praise God; preaching the Word, rejoicing through music, teaching the Holy Bible to young and old, bearing one another's burdens, sharing in Christian fellowship, and proclaiming through word and deed the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These are the things we've been participating in, providing, or doing together as the Church during 2016. This is all related to our budget and the conversation about what we do with what we receive. We need to both be aware of "our story" as well as be able to "tell our story" both to those inside the Church (i.e. members) as well as those OUTSIDE our Church.

Supporting Worship and Pastoral Care for our church:

-) Worship on 12 Sunday mornings, 1 Special Ash Wednesday Service, 1 Special Maundy Thursday Service, and 2 Funerals

-) Celebrated the Lord's Supper during 6 worship services, and reaffirmed our baptismal vows during 1 service
-) Conducted our annual congregational meeting followed by a soup celebration
-) Leadership of 3 Session meetings
-) Hosted a funeral dinner for Steve Zane
-) Pastoral care and support to members and the community (conversations, phone calls, and visitation)
-) Pastoral care, support, and planning to 3 families who have lost a loved one; and other families with illnesses
-) Hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon which raised funds for Sunday Morning Breakfast Rescue Mission
-) Provided a Sunday School program that serves the children of the Church
-) Welcomed a number of visitors and guests
-) Published 2 monthly newsletters, weekly bulletins, e-weekly reminders and other materials to keep the congregation informed
-) Provided music ministry, including staff and instrumentation for 3 choirs and worship
-) Provided special materials for unique aspects of Ash Wednesday worship service for worshippers
-) Maintained a card ministry with the congregation by sending Easter cards

Supporting our Community

-) Serviced our Pre-school community (52 pre-school class days in our building)
-) Outreach of worship and other resources to the community via our website/facebook
-) Hosted Havertown Red Cross blood drive (02/20)
-) Shared our building with our Boy Scout Troop (Monday meetings and an Eagle Ceremony and celebration (03/05) and a Cub Scout Den (that packed lunches for Connect-By-Night on 03/08)
-) Shared our building with Alcoholics Anonymous (13 meetings)
-) Shared our building with NAMI support group (2 meetings so far)
-) Shared our building with Havertown MusicFest Planning Committee (2 meetings)
-) Supported Connect-By-Night through administration and coordination
-) Provided Connect-By-Night with Lunches (50 x 28days= 1,400 lunches!)
-) Provided Connect-By-Night with warm snacks (50 x 28 days = 1,400 snacks) and staff to serve
-) Through our participation in Connect-By-Night, have offered opportunities for our wider community to participate in support of this vital ministry (when Llanerch serves, there are non-Llanerch people serving with us, too!)
-) Received the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering (with half of the offering supportive of Connect-by-Night)
-) Hosted a "sock drive" with the Preschool
-) Supported Chester Eastside Ministries through gifts of food and financial support
-) Provided Havertown Ministerium with a Vice-President Leader (our pastor serves in that role)

Supporting the Presbyterian Mission

-) Provided leadership for Stewardship Kaleidoscope (PCUSA national event gathering)
-) Provided leadership for Presbytery's Regional Commission (through our pastor)
-) Contribute to community conversations via Facebook posts
-) Connected with the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church socially/through worship
-) Participated in the work of the Presbytery of Philadelphia
-) Provided Study Leave and revitalizing experiences for our pastor

Establishment

-) Administration and oversight for 4 church employees, and 7 Preschool employees
-) Heat, snow-removal, electricity, and water for the church building in use most every day
-) Maintained an online presence via a Church website.

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 leading worship!*

opening the doors and greeting we need willing volunteers members, friends, and guests, experience the love and grace Rev. Stipp-Bethune or sending an e-mail to the Church sign-up online by using this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ifd7-lkfpGH2SCq3TwT36yUIMsSAh5ZuZAJmgIxAYl0/edit?usp=sharing>.



From reading and leading worship to with bright shiny faces ready to help of Jesus Christ. Sign up by talking to Office. Worship Leaders can also

HELPING AND GETTING HELP

<p>Do you need a ride to church or know someone who does?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Please see or call Vicki Murphy (610.446.0637) or any member of the Deacons.</p>	
<p>Monthly Care Closet Offering:</p>	<p>Will next be received on Sunday, April 3 —in worship</p>	<p>If you know someone in need, please speak with Rev. Stipp-Bethune or Vicki Murphy</p>	