



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

211 Lansdowne Road, Havertown, PA 19083

610-789-1639; www.llanerchpres.org

OCTOBER 2016 News and Notes

Brothers and Sisters,

I've been overwhelmed by your words of congratulations, support, and thanks--despite the news that I have accepted a new call and will be leaving Llanerch. My time with you has been nothing short of blessed! And it's been hard to come to terms with the fact that our time together is ending, and that new chapters in our ministries are about to begin. I've been humbled by so many well-wishes and "thank you's" and "good luck's;" especially since I've imagined that this news could only be unhappy for you, and that I was adding insult to injury—much like salt in a wound. Thank you for not making it like that!

In the midst of the excitement of a new position in a new place and new opportunities in ministry, I've also been sad that our ministry together is ending. I'll miss what has become familiar, comfortable, and expected in worship, the neighborhood and friendships, and especially a congregation that has blessed me with its willingness to try new things, listen to my dreams, and yearn with me for something inspired! You've asked me to grow and be stretched, afforded me opportunities to learn and experiment with new ideas and work collaboratively. When I got too far ahead, you gently pulled me back; when something didn't move quickly enough and you offered grace in abundance. I've benefited much from your wisdom and experience and witnessed your amazing gifts for ministry and shared in a wonderful place to raise my family, showered by the constancy of your goodness and kindness. My heart is full and I'm so very grateful for this time of service!

I wish I could say the path ahead was definitely easy and the burdens were all light. It's going to be uncertain and full of challenges. But you have opportunities to show Jesus to the world around you. Your calling to follow Jesus, to make a difference and transform the world continues. And my continued prayer will be that God's Spirit will invest in your life and witness as well as mine; that in your work and mine, we will be widening the circles of God's desires!

One of my colleagues recently asked me, "What is 'best' about your upcoming move?" I had to think about it for a long time. I'm anxious because I know that each time you begin anew you start all over. I'm losing my familiar expectations in the people I know and the way "we" do things. I'm moving to a whole different part of the country where it doesn't snow in winter; I've not yet met the congregation, so they might not appreciate me the way the PNC did; there will be growing pains and uneasy relationships for a while. But thinking about what's "best," it's been a constant and abiding sense of the Holy Spirit for me. At every step, at every single turn, there have been Holy Spirit moments. And when it came time to make decisions and have a sense of what I should do, it was Holy Spirit driven. It was right and it felt right because God was near and present.

In that way God has been generous, gracious, and kind with me. And I pray that as you continue your ministry that God will be generous, gracious, and kind with you and your leaders. I pray that you can know as clearly as I have known that the next steps are makeable and that they seem to you to be "meant to be" ahead of time. So that you can step confidently where God has called you! And God is surely calling YOU, too!

None of this is easy. But we have Jesus to show us the way!

Over the next few weeks, our ministry together will end. As I've said so many times to myself and many of you, it's "bittersweet." I hope that you will know what a blessing our time together has been and what deep joy I've experienced in serving here. A part of me will always be at Llanerch. And how much I will be hoping and praying for your continued work!

As we walk together these last weeks, we'll be moving toward a congregational meeting where you will vote to dissolve our pastoral relationship. This is a necessary step that clears the way for the Presbytery to act both in formally dissolving the relationship but also in facilitating my transfer of membership to the Presbytery of the Pines. As I begin making plans for serving in a new place, your leaders will be making plans for what needs to happen at Llanerch—both in securing pulpit supply and establishing transitional pastoral services. You'll begin to cultivate advice from other leaders who will come alongside your Session to offer advice and council, and I'll be filling boxes and anticipating filling new expectations. Plans are now that our Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, October 23rd, with my final Sunday in the pulpit being October 30th and my final day of work, October 31st.

So that at the end of the month I'll no longer be your pastor, and I'll be expected not to be involved in your continuing ministry as a leader or consultant and not involved in the process or work of suggesting or determining your next pastoral leader or leaders. After the 30th, I'll not be making pastoral calls, visits, or commitments—even if we're still in town, yet to be moved. And there will be boundaries in place even if I return to the area for work or vacation. This will be made easier by the fact that I'll be in Arkansas and the distance will ensure some level of separation for us. This won't mean I can't share in your news or knowing what's happening in your lives, that we can't exchange greetings or "status updates" on Facebook. But it will mean I won't be responding as your pastor.

But you must always know that you inhabit a special place in my heart. Even as I've known the decision to move to El Dorado is the right one, I've been impressed and excited by the plans we've made together and I'm hope-filled about opportunities and possibilities that are still ahead of you! Our work with New Beginnings has yielded good ideas that can be realized. There are relationships within and beyond the neighborhood that can be cultivated and re-invigorated, and carrying your ministry to the wider community is already happening through Connect-By-Night and other relationships.

But also know that I will remember your witness to me! Your energy and enthusiasm for feeding people, your steadfast witness in worship, the reach of your caring that some days extended to far reaches of the globe, for the times that we stood together in the aftermath of horrific headlines, and were met by unbelievable and unexpected blessing and generosity. I will remember the commitment of so many to your prosperity—those who have gone before and given of themselves after the fact. I will remember your commitments and hopes for the future that will continue to endure after I've gone. Because pastors come and go, but the ministry we share together stands the tests of time!

You will remain in my prayers, and I covet yours for my journey so that there may be life and life—for us all.

See you in Church!



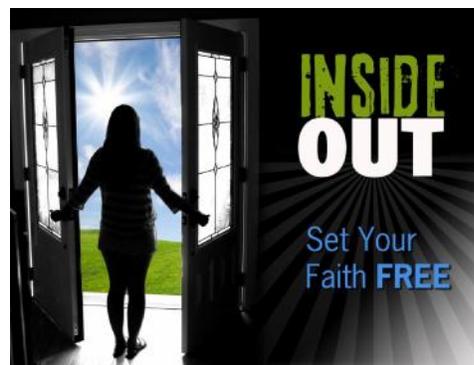
Worship in OCTOBER!

October's worship will follow the theme of our "The Church has Left the Building" ministry and Day of Service. We'll be anticipating our Day of Service on Sunday, November 6th by preparing our hearts and minds for serving our community in a church-wide witness on that Sunday. You'll hear details each week in worship, including a pulpit exchange on Sunday October 9th—with Rev. Kurt Pleim preaching at Llanerch and Rev. Stipp-Bethune preaching and leading worship at Beverly Hills Presbyterian. On October 2nd we'll celebrate **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**. All of these weeks leading up to our Day of Service on November 6th.

DATE:	CELEBRATION:	FIRST READING:	GOSPEL:
October 2nd	20 th Sunday after Pentecost WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	2 Timothy 1: 1-14	Luke 17: 5-10
October 9th	21 st Sunday after Pentecost PULPIT EXCHANGE WITH BEVERLY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7	Luke 17: 11-19
October 16th	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18: 1-8
October 23rd	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18: 9-14
October 30 th	24 th Sunday after Pentecost [Rev. Stipp-Bethune's Last Sunday preaching and leading worship]	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11- 12	Luke 19: 1-10

The Church Has Left the Building is coming! ...Say what?

Have you heard about "Church has left the building?" There's been a little confusion, so let's clarify. "Church has left the building" is a way of describing a **DAY OF SERVICE** in which our congregation is committing to, in lieu of a traditional worship service. The idea is that rather than remaining committed to Sunday worship, we give up one Sunday as a way of connecting with other people and the world around us by serving in ways that look like and honor Jesus.



- ❖ This doesn't mean we're going to stop worshipping at Church!
- ❖ Nor does it mean we are abandoning our church building!

It means that for **ONE SUNDAY** (November 6th), when you come to worship you'll be invited to participate in **SERVICE PROJECTS** in and for our community!

Each Sunday in October, we'll be exploring the idea of our faith turned "inside out" as we seek to explore what it means to be "sent out" as a means of touching lives like Jesus. AND, the possibility that our service will help share and connect people in the community to our work and faith.

Other churches have tried this and liked it; so we're joining a number of churches in our Presbytery, including our friends at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, in participating in this program in 2016.

Questions? More information will be shared this month! But if you have concerns, please speak with Rev. Stipp-Bethune.

"THE SOUNDS OF VENICE" —A Special Event

Our Minister of Music, Georgia Schrom, had a great time playing the organ at iconic St. Mark's Basilica in Venice this summer! She's offering an opportunity to gather, share a meal, hear about her experiences, and listen to some of the music on our organ!



Join us Saturday, October 22nd at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a special evening of sharing and entertainment!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday School program is now underway. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, "Feasting on the Word." This year we are encouraging the children to bring an offering each week, along with their ENTHUSIASM!!



CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month—Sunday, October 2nd! Bring your family's care closet can with you to worship!





Join us, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST at the Church for Trunk-or-Treat from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Come along and join the ghosts and goblins!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- ❖ Volunteers to decorate trunks/vehicles (there will be a sign-up sheet!).
- ❖ Donations of candy and other give-away items for “treats.” (You can bring donated items to the Church Office).
- ❖ Please let Joanne Janos know if you can help in any way.
- ❖ Georgia will be playing haunting music, as we invite the community into our sanctuary to share the organ experience.

Per Capita Appeal



*Per Capita -
For Love of
Christ's Church*

Our church is a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and our support of the Presbytery is the backbone of our connection to the larger church. Each year, we offer an amount to support the Presbytery based on our membership, known as the per capita apportionment. This money supports local and regional staff members and the operation of the General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. You have already received a letter and envelope for you to use to help us meet this obligation! The support we receive from Presbytery is real, so thank you for making this part of your giving.

MISSISON NEWS

Thoughts on the Total Mission Project on World Communion Sunday

You may have had a chance to see the posters mounted in the narthex celebrating the mission activities of the Church and of the members of the church. This summer, we compiled images for the organizations, spaces, and programs that have been supported by our combined mission giving, right here in the Delaware Valley. Long standing relationships with traditional partners like Connect-by-Night, the Children's Village, Chester Eastside Ministries, and scouts are joined by individual giving to those groups and a wide variety of other

organizations with a strong focus on access to nutrition, education, health care, animals, and veteran's issues. It's easy to see that putting together church giving and individual generosity helps us see the broader impact of our local mission to the community. It's also important that so many aspects of local mission are physical and personal, that church members are cooking, serving, greeting, and ministering to the community face-to-face, in addition to making donations of money. This direct involvement is a hallmark of who we are. Over the week, the church building takes on many roles as home to the organizations who share our space. As we "leave the building" in November we'll be following a familiar path out into the community.

This month we are celebrating World Communion Sunday, a recognition that Christians around the world partake of the same feast. This one-ness of sharing communion is also embodied in our mission giving in the wider world. We'll be putting up some new posters with images reflecting the impact of church giving across the U.S. and around the world. It can be said that the sun does not set on the mission and outreach of our church and its members. We are supporting pastors, teachers, farmers, shopkeepers, school children, church planters, peacemakers, medical personnel, community organizers, and relief workers. Working together, our impact has been broad and deep. Sharing the experience of individual mission with church mission programs strengthens our connection as church members as well as our connections with those we serve beyond our community.

SCOUTING NEWS

Scouts of Troop 434 returned to the church in September after a long summer break. New members were introduced to the troop in a "speed dating" event in which boys shook hands with every other scout and shared grade in school, favorite sport, and favorite candy. Then it was down to business in getting together all the arrangements for the first camping trip of the fall season, a trip to the Pine Barrens at the Citta Scout Reservation. Even though the weather was brisk, there was swimming in the surf, climbing Barnegat Light, campfires, wonderful food, and good sleeping weather.



You'll see the Scouts and the Cub Pack at Township Day on October 1, and will have a chance to sample their snacks including funnel cake made according to a secret recipe handed down from one scoutmaster to another. The Scouts are also selling attractive first aid kits in waterproof red packs as a fundraiser. They're available at the Church at a significant discount over the price that will be charged to the general public, so let Kate Hiebert know if you'd like one. The funnel cakes and a car wash planned for the end of the month are fundraisers for replacing camping equipment; the first aid kits are a fundraiser for the boys who will be attending the National Jamboree next summer. It will be a first for our troop to send a contingent of scouts to this special event in West Virginia so we're proud and excited to support their adventure.

HEY? WHEN'S THAT STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN?

So, you haven't received your stewardship letter? You're thinking maybe you got forgotten or your membership status changed? Or, maybe you've been avoiding the mail carrier for the wrong reasons!

This fall is not the time to talk about financials, we're hoping instead you'll want to get involved in giving and receiving as we leave the building in our fall "Church has Left the building campaign." We're planning to talk about our giving in January! So, stop avoiding the mail, thinking you'll just find an endless supply of asking about money. Come serve with us and be reminded what our ministry is all about!



CONVENIENT PLEDGING. GIVE IT A TRY!

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!



Blessing of the Animals



Join us October 9th at 2pm!

Bring your pets—furry, finned, or feathered—for a special liturgy and blessing!

Invite your friends and neighbors, too!