



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

211 Lansdowne Road, Havertown, PA 19083

610-789-1639; www.llanerchpres.org

JANUARY 2018 News and Notes

From the Pastor's Desk

*On a cold afternoon, in a cold little town,
where everywhere you looked was either the white of snow
or the black of soot from chimneys,
Annabelle found a box filled with yarn of every color.*

So begins one of the favorite stories from the shelves of my daughters' library: *Extra Yarn*, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen. In the course of thirty-six pages, Annabelle shares her newly discovered yarn and, though it seems impossible, knits sweaters for every person, animal, tree, and house in her little town. At the end of the book, the cold little town that once was a dull black and white has been transformed by Annabelle's colorful generosity.

The story suggests an easy metaphor of what we are about here in church: We have this great and beautiful gift of God's love. The more we share in it, the more we find of it. And when we love freely, the world around us changes, becoming more beautiful.

I learned in Sunday School the story from Exodus of the golden calf, which the lonely Israelite refugees built to appease their anxiety. It is a story Presbyterians love to tell about how quickly we can forget God. And though I heard it many times, I never heard that it came in the middle of another story: the construction of the ark and the weaving of the holy clothes, and the people gathering "gold; and silver; and bronze; blue, purple and crimson yarns". The people became so generous that they gave too much, and the artisans had to ask that the beautiful gifts cease, there was enough to worship God with beauty.

It is lovely when we give enough to make our worship beautiful. But it is exquisite without equal when we can take the gifts we have from God and make the world around us more beautiful. In this congregation, I have seen how eager you are to share your clothes and your dollars with our neighbors. I have seen how you hunger to give food and drink to those with empty cupboards. I have seen how you teach children and offer the building in which we worship to the community. I have seen you make the world more beautiful with your generosity.

This month is our Stewardship season. Your Session and I want to invite you to commit yourself to give as generously as Annabelle with her yarn and as the Israelites with their gifts. You will make the world as beautiful as God created it to be.

Grace and peace,

Bill

Worship in JANUARY!

DATE	WORSHIP TEXT
January 7	Mark 1:1-11
January 14	John 1:43-51
January 21	Mark 1:14-20
January 28	Acts 10

Support the Music Program!

We had wonderful services during the Christmas season with guest musicians. To replenish our fund for special musicians, we have been offering a commemorative hymnal opportunity. This is your chance to celebrate, remember, or honor a loved one, near or far, by dedicating one of our new hymnals with a special book plate for a donation of \$20 per hymnal. Of course, we would be happy for a donation to this fund, even if you have already dedicated a hymnal. Donations marked "Music Fund" can be put in the collection plate.



ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!



Sunday School – New Time, Same Location

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!!

Note new time – 10:45 AM - noon

CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month— Sunday, January 7th! Bring your family's care closet can with you to worship!





ALTERNATE GIFT GIVING

We are continuing to accept donations through the month of January!

In the past our congregation has supported Heifer International in their continued effort to bring help, healing and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. Today they are working in more than 30 countries and in areas where hunger and despair once prevailed. Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock, training and “Passing on The Gift” while also caring for the earth.

Heifer International works in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty. Their field staff is comprised of livestock specialists and their programs are considered among the most successful in the world.

Please look at our display in the Fellowship Room. It will remain all through January. This display will provide you with all the information that you need to make this gift giving opportunity to a husband, wife, daughter, son, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparents, neighbors, teachers and co-workers. The list can go on and on. With a donation of \$10 or more you will receive an “Honor Card” to send to that individual or family. We will have the cards here for you at church.

For those of you unable to make it to church, but would still like to participate in this type of gift giving and its valuable outcome, please get in touch with Kelly at the church office or call Joanne Janos at 610-446-0165. Feel free to call Joanne any day of the week. It doesn't need to be on a Sunday. Joanne and Kelly will see that you get the necessary materials.

Here is how it works:

- You decide to donate a sheep in honor of your mother, who has always loved these gentle animals.
- Your mother receives a holiday Honor Card from you describing the generous contribution you've made in her honor.
- Thanks to your gift, one more family is on the road to self-reliance.
- Once the family has completed training and has prepared appropriate facilities, they then receive a healthy female sheep.
- Throughout the year, the sheep provides soft, warm wool that can be made into clothing or sold to pay for food, medicine and school – all the ingredients for a brighter future.
- The family gives one or more of its sheep's offspring to another family in need. That's part of the **Passing on the Gift** tradition that participants agree to when they become partners with Heifer International.



You can see that your kind gift is much more than one animal – it's the gift of hope and opportunity for an entire community. That's why this is *The Most Important Gift Catalog in the World*.

HEIFER'S 12 CORNERSTONES



MISSION NEWS

Sunday school students and their teachers continued to offer their “Alternative Christmas Gift” program through the month, raising money for the Heifer Project and their ministry to rural communities around the world. They will be concluding their work this month, so see Joanne Janos if you would like to buy a share of animal (or a whole animal!)

White Gifts (including lovely gifts, cozy gifts, practical gifts, fun gifts, and gift cards) were delivered to the residents of the Village in Rosemont on December 15. The Village serves its community of children in residential treatment settings as well as supporting families in need in Philadelphia and the suburbs. Many thanks to all those who helped these children and families find hope and joy in the midst of troubled times.

We continued our partnership in local ministry this month by helping Christ Community Church at the Riverview Center provide an evening meal at the Life Center on 63rd Street. CCC provided the “Holy Spirit Soup” and Llanerch Presbyterian provides a piece of fresh fruit for every one of the 200 guests who come for that open community meal. Our next chance to serve this program will be at the end of March.

The big mission project for the year around our church begins NOW! During January and March, we will partner with CCC to provide meals, support, and fellowship to homeless adults in Delaware County. The Connect-by-Night program provides a warm overnight place to guests who are in the care of Connect, a program of support and services run by the South Eastern Pennsylvania Mental Health Association. The evening program rests on the support of Delco churches that can provide sleeping space in their buildings every night for a month. CCC provides the sleeping space for up to 55 guests and SEPAMHA social workers provide the transportation and supervision. Our role is to provide snacks, meals, and friendly hospitality to guests. Our schedule is to provide meals every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and alternate Sundays. Almost every service date in January has been claimed by a volunteer, which is joyous news. If you want to help, see the calendar in the Fellowship room or online at the Mission tab of the church website (<http://web.llanerchpres.org/connect-by-night/>). Helping can take many forms: making a pot of soup, helping gather lunch-making supplies, helping another person serve, or helping transport meals to the church. Everyone at the church can feel part of this fulfillment of Christ’s message for how we should live in the world. Please continue to pray for the volunteers and their helpers, for their guests, and for the professional staff of Connect.

An extra way to help: Spare (adult) warm winter gear is welcome for the Clothes Closet maintained in the Connect-by-Night space at the Riverview Center. Items can be left at the Llanerch or given to one of the daily volunteers to deliver. We also like to provide basic toiletries (especially small sizes); toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion, and deodorant seem to be the most needed.

SCOUTING NEWS

The routine for scouting in December reflects winter realities since it is the one month that the Scouts don’t go camping. The Scouts were still outside, though, since in cold weather they gathered at the Grange Estate to work on a garden renovation project. Under the direction of aspiring Eagle Scout Steven Mittelman, boys and other helpers cleared an overgrown bed and renovated stone walls, lined and filled the bed, and installed a decorative stone pattern. Later, Troop 434 held a traditional “Gym Night” at the Middle School to have fun and blow off steam in which scouts squared off against their leaders in a kickball and gaga ball match. Holiday parties also offered a joyful break. The Scout party at Llanerch included skits, a fabulous cookie and fruit table, and a gift exchange for all the children present. The Scouts also had a chance to take on some more local service as their families signed up for Connect-By-Night dates. Thanks to all of those families who support the community in so many ways.



NARRATIVE BUDGET COMING

What do our financial donations do to help run the church? How much good can we do with our Stewardship pledges? How do our personal gifts and time work together with the amount of money that is involved? You will have a chance to see answers to these questions and more when you receive a copy of your Narrative Budget with your stewardship package this month. We look forward to your interest and questions, and we hope that you will use this information to help you plan your annual pledge of support to the church.

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!


