



The Pastor's Ponderings. . .

FEBRUARY 2012

“Where’s Winter?”

Winter – or, rather, the lack of it – has been much in the news of late. The average temperature in December 2011, compared to December 2010, averaged about 11 degrees warmer. And, so far, January 2012 has been relatively “mild.”

As a result, those of us who go outside for an occasional run – or even a bit of yard work – are in danger of becoming a bit spoiled. We tend to forget about the need to have our snow shovels handy and our snow blowers tuned up.

Interestingly, it also tends to be so with the practice of prayer: This past Sunday’s Confirmation Class focused on that subject, and – as our teens wisely noted – our tendency to pray is prone to decrease when we don’t “need anything” that we might otherwise think to call upon God to provide.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the Children of Israel were warned about the dangers of prosperity in Deuteronomy Chapter 8. God was going to trust his people with prosperity – God was about to bring them into the Promised Land – and so Moses charges them to remember the source of their blessings, and to make it a habit to “bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you” (8:10b).

Similarly, we at Lower Brandywine have been given many good gifts, and it is also up to us to remember – and gratefully acknowledge – their source.

The Season of Lent presents a special, annual opportunity to do so, and consideration is now being given to how we might approach Lent 2012 as the Body of Christ in this place and time. If you have suggestions as to how we might do so, please submit them to me or to the Church Office. The Holy Spirit has consistently worked through the inspiration of our individual members in the past, and your creative thoughts are very welcome!

And, be sure to open your hearts and minds to God in a more intentional way during this special season of the Church Year. Remember the “Promised Land” which God has made available to us in Jesus Christ, and give thanks through your own participation in the work and worship of Lower Brandywine.

God has indeed trusted us with prosperity! Thanks be to God!

Dave Lovelace

February's Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Souper Bowl of Caring February 5, 2012
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012
- Presidents' Day, February 20, 2012
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012



During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness. Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. —Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series, www.rethinkchurch.org/lent

St. Valentine

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost. First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage. Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.

Give up worry — trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement — be full of hope.

Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred — return good for evil.

Give up anger — be more patient.

Give up pettiness — become mature.

Give up jealousy — pray for trust.

Give up gossiping — control your tongue.

Give up sin — turn to virtue.

Give up giving up — persevere. —

Author unknown



MONTHLY LECTIONARY READINGS

February 2012 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

**5th Sunday after Epiphany—
February 5**

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 40:21–31
Ps. 147:1–11, 20c
1 Cor. 9:16–23
Mark 1:29–39

**6th Sunday after Epiphany—
February 12**

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1–14
Ps. 30
1 Cor. 9:24–27
Mark 1:40–45

**Transfiguration of the Lord—
February 19**

2 Kings 2:1–12
Ps. 50:1–6
2 Cor. 4:3–6
Mark 9:2–9

Ash Wednesday—February 22

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12
Ps. 51:1-17
2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

1st Sunday in Lent—February 26

Gen. 9:8–17
Ps. 25:1–10
1 Peter 3:18–22



- 2/01 Jacob Csuy
- 02/03 Mimi Lovelace
- 02/04 Carolyn Dreisbach
- 02/06 Trude Holmes
Eleanor Hileman
- 02/07 Janice Reid
- 02/09 William Sudell
Nicole Murphy
- 02/11 Sandra Messikomer
- 02/12 Harold Kenton
Harold Salmons, III
- 02/14 John Danzeisen
David McElvain
Conrad Kuhlmann
- 02/16 Madison Armstrong
- 02/18 Werner Brown
- 02/20 Darlene Sullivan
Lisa Holt
- 02/23 Michael Hammon
- 02/24 Steve Ernst
- 02/27 Chris Ramsey
Danielle Antony



February 7th
Arkadi Kuhlmann and Synthia Wong

February 14th
William and Lois Martino

Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you; Be honest anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway. —

”The Paradoxical Commandments,”
Kent M. Keith

The Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church 2012 Lenten Series of Suppers and Studies

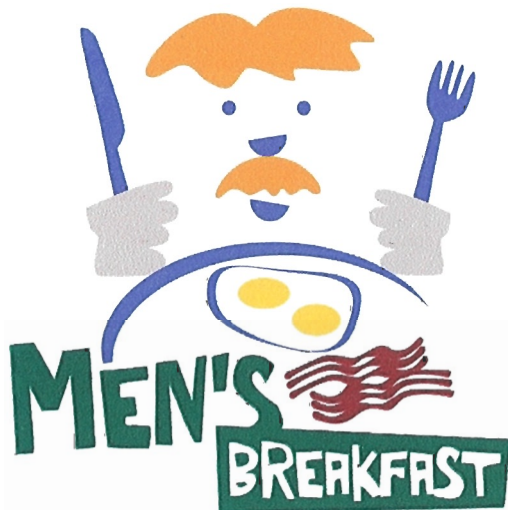
Our annual Lenten series will begin on Sunday, February 26. We will have a potluck dinner at 6PM, followed by a short service of worship in the Sanctuary. We are considering the topic for our meditations of "Journeying with Joy". The final meeting of the series will be on Sunday, March 25th. Please join us for any or all of our meetings.

Men's Breakfast

When: February 11, 2012

Cost: \$2

Speaker: Dr. Dennis Witmer



Dennis Witmer spoke to our Men's Breakfast once before about some challenging surgery that was particularly memorable. Now he will talk with us about mountain climbing, which he also enjoys. Dennis has an interesting way of presenting his subject, and so we will find this subject fascinating indeed—maybe it will take us to a higher plane!! Come and enjoy the speaker and the breakfast and the company. You will be glad you did.



BUILDING FUND PLEDGES

Now that our building expansion project is complete, we are in the wonderful position of having a surplus of \$65,617. Session has approved moving these funds into the Capital Improvement Fund. If any contributor to the Building Fund would like the unspent portion of their gift (8.6%) to go elsewhere, please advise John Danzeisen or Lnida Natali.



OUR NEW MISSION FAMILY

Carol and Leith Fujii

Bangkok, Thailand

Email: [Leith Fujii](mailto:Leith.Fujii)

Email: [Carol Fujii](mailto:Carol.Fujii)

[Subscribe to Carol and Leith Fujii's letters](#)

Leith and Carol Fujii were appointed in 1998 by the PC(USA) to serve in Thailand in partnership with the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT). Leith is an instructor in English and evangelism at the Bangkok Institute of Theology. Besides his teaching responsibilities, Leith advises students and alumni and serves local churches through the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

Carol provides ministry from the home and serves on the faculty of the Bangkok Institute of Theology, where she teaches English to the entering class. Besides her family and teaching responsibilities at BIT, Carol volunteers with The Well, an outreach ministry to women in prostitution. She also enjoys helping at Lani's international school. Carol says, "Mostly, I enjoy and desire to live for Jesus in the relationships with my family, Thai colleagues, neighbors and friends who do not yet know Jesus' love for them."

Prior to discerning a call to mission in 1998, Leith worked for Wright Community College in Chicago as an instructor in their work-force training department, providing English instruction for adults at their employment sites, and as an adjunct professor of English. While working at Wright, Leith also was an adjunct professor at North Park Theological Seminary and an interim pastor at Grace Evangelical Covenant Church.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in oceanography from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Leith served as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

On leaving the Navy, he worked as an assistant to the pastor at the Church of Christ, Presbyterian, in Chicago, Illinois.

Leith holds a Master of Divinity in pastoral counseling from Trinity International University and a master's in linguistics from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

Carol holds a Bachelor of Arts in art education from the University of Maryland. During her university years, she was nurtured and disciplined in her relationship with God through the ministry of the Navigators and the local church. Carol was an international trainee in Japan with the Navigators from 1979 to 1981.

February 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 |
| | | | Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 5:00 pm Green Willow Folk Club | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 5th Sunday after Epiphany Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, God's Family at Table, Children in Worship 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm LIFT | 10:00 am Missions Committee Meeting | 11:00 am Pastoral Care Meeting | Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 pm Book Club | 8:00 pm Confirmation Lock-in | 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Officer's Retreat |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm LIFT | | | Music Rehearsals 2:00 pm Crosslands Worship - Upper Audland 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study | 7:30 pm Just Desserts @ Harriet Spayth's | |
| 19 | 20 President's Day | 21 | 22 Ash Wednesday | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Transfiguration of the Lord 5:00 am LIFT 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm LIFT | Office Closed 12:00 pm Women's Group 7:00 pm Finance and Administration Meeting | | Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study | 6:00 pm 30 Hour Famine | 12:00 am - 10:00 am 30 Hour Famine Ends |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |
| 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Confirmation Class | 7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting | | Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | | | |

March 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | 1 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study | 2 | 3 |
| 4 2nd Sunday in Lent Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, God's Family at Table, Children in Worship 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm LIFT | 5 10:00 am Missions Committee Meeting | 6 11:00 am Pastoral Care Meeting 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Kennett Pike Association Mtg. | 7 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 8 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 pm Book Club | 9 | 10 8:00 am Men's Breakfast |
| 11 Daylight Saving Begins 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Confirmation Class | 12 | 13 | 14 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 15 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study | 16 7:30 pm Just Desserts @ Bob Sue Hartman's | 17 St. Patrick's Day |
| 18 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 5:00 pm LIFT | 19 12:00 pm Women's Group 7:00 pm Finance and Administration Meeting | 20 | 21 Music Rehearsals 2:00 pm Crosslands Worship - Upper Audland 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 22 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study | 23 | 24 11:30 am Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert Dress Rehearsal |
| 25 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult Topical Class/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Traditional Worship Service/ Adult Discussion/ The Wired Word 11:30 am Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation 3:00 pm Fifth Annual Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert @ Kennett High School 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Confirmation Class | 26 7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting | 27 | 28 Music Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm LBPC Worship Consort 7:30 pm Senior Choir | 29 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study | 30 | 31 |

Sunday, February 5th



Please bring canned soup, canned goods and dollars for donation. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a ministry of our youth, helping to fight hunger and poverty in our local community.



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