



LAKWOOD  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# Open Door

Hope • Friendship • Service

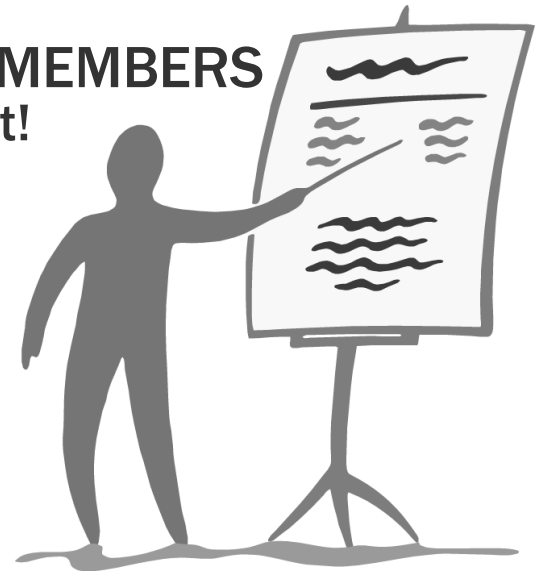
## CALLING ALL LPC MEMBERS Time to Eat and Meet!

### Annual Congregational Luncheon & Meeting Sunday, February 5

We will convene our annual congregational meeting in Lawther Hall on Sunday, February 5, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service which will feature Holy Communion and LPC's musical ensembles, soloists, and hymns focused on the church's healing ministry of Jesus. A special offering will be received to benefit North Coast Health Ministries, a faith-based clinic for the uninsured headquartered in Lakewood. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck luncheon hosted by the Hospitality and Fellowship Ministry (see box below).

#### Why do we have these annual luncheons and meetings?

The most important reason is because every congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is required by our governing constitution (*The Book of Order*) to meet at least one time per year for the purpose of reporting on and celebrating the congregation's mission and ministry during the preceding twelve months. The annual meeting is also the place where the congregation elects new people to lead and guide the church as members of the Session. And finally, it is also during the annual



meeting when the congregation must approve the pastor's salary and benefits (the Session approves salaries and benefits for all other staff members).

#### Who has been nominated this year?

The 2011 Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of people for *your* vote!

*Session Class of 2015:* Bette Case, Ed Corcoran, Claudia Meyke, John Mumma, Bill Noyes, and Christine Smith

*2012 Nominating Committee:* Nancy Calcott, John Hansen, Tim Miller (the Session will elect two of their members who will also serve on the Nominating Committee)

The Annual Report and Agenda packets were distributed after worship on

SEE MEETING | 4

#### Potluck Luncheon

Ham, dessert, and beverages will be provided by the Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry. Please bring a vegetable dish, salad, or casserole to serve 8 to 10. A warming oven, two convection ovens, a stove, and refrigerator are available to hold your dishes prior to the luncheon. ☺

#### Inside this issue:

Message from the Pastor	2
Annual Lenten Series	2
Benefit Concert	3
Scout Sunday & Pancake Breakfast	4
Fellowship/Personals	5

#### Coming in March:

- Saturday, March 10 – Session Workshop
- Sunday, March 11 – Daylight Saving Time begins
- Tuesdays, March 13, 20, 27 – Lenten Meals & Programs
- Sunday, March 25 – Youth Sunday
- Friday, March 30 at 8pm – Organ Recital by Paula Maust - Sanctuary

# A Message from the Pastor

— The Rev. Dr. James C. Butler

I can still remember the first Annual Meeting I attended after I joined a Presbyterian Church. It was in January, 1985! It was all new to me, but I was very moved when the time came and I discovered that I was going to be given the privilege of casting a vote to elect people who would help the clergy lead the church. I had never done that before! And that wasn't all—I was asked to approve the pastors' salaries and

benefit packages. We also heard brief reports about the activities and various ministries undertaken by the congregation and then celebrated with grateful prayers and enthusiastic singing. I went home that day so very thankful that I hitched myself up to the Presbyterian tradition of Christ's church. All of these years later, whenever I convene an annual meeting as the moderator, I always remember that very first annual

meeting back in 1985 and thank God all over again for the privilege of serving in the Presbyterian Church. I share that with you hoping it might encourage you to stay at church an extra 90 minutes on Sunday, February 5, enjoy a good hearty lunch with other members, and then exercise your constitutional rights as a member of Lakewood Presbyterian Church. See you then and may God continue to bless and guide us! ❖

## Tuesday Evening Lenten Series Planned

This year's Lenten Series will again offer two class options beginning Tuesday evening, February 28 at 7 p.m. A simple supper will be available in Lawther Hall from 6–6:45 p.m.

### CLASS OPTION ONE— "It's Time to Grow Up: Forming an Adult Faith in a Modern World"

LPC's pastor, the Rev. Jim Butler will lead a four-part lecture and discussion series that will explore basic questions of Christian faith that people very often first encounter in childhood Sunday School classes and sometimes never re-engage. Topics will include: Who was Jesus and

what did he reveal about God? What is the core of his message? What about the cross and resurrection? How is the Bible authoritative and where did it come from? What did Paul say about Jesus and the Gospel? Why is Christian community necessary? How can we meaningfully talk about salvation? What is the difference between faith and belief? The purpose is to help participants form a more solid foundation and understanding of Christianity that will help them to live as a faithful modern day follower of Jesus Christ. If you don't feel terribly confident about what you *think* you are supposed to know and/or believe, this series could be

very helpful. The series will be held in the Reed Room at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, (skips March 6 because the church will be in use as a polling place for primary voting day), and continues March 13, 20, and 27.

### CLASS OPTION TWO— "On the Road to the Cross"

The Rev. Sharon Budin will offer an interactive class for all ages which explores the varieties of styles and symbolism of crosses and opportunities to create your own personally meaningful crosses using a variety of artistic mediums. ❖



## Requests for Cooks and Helpers

The Church's annual Lenten Series begins on Tuesday, February 28 and will continue on Tuesday evenings through March 27 (except March 6). The Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry is looking for cooks and helpers to prepare and serve four Lenten meals for 45 to 50 people prior to the Tuesday evening programs. The meals should be simple, one dish type entrées served with a salad and maybe rolls or bread. Dessert can also be as simple as a plate of cookies or brownies. Since the cost of the food is covered by a goodwill offering, we don't want to get too extravagant on the menu. We also don't want to limit any cook's creativity so if you want to do something else and you can keep the cost down, go for it. The dinners need to be ready to serve promptly at 6 p.m.

Thank you from the Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry.

## Ash Wednesday Service

February 22 @ 7pm

Faith Presbyterian Church  
12601 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood



## Ash Wednesday

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### Mission Opportunities

#### North Church Needs Your Help

North Presbyterian Church, located on Superior Avenue in downtown Cleveland, provides an inner city ministry to the urban poor. Our church has partnered with them for many years and February has traditionally been our month to offer assistance. They have requested our help with their community meals on the last two Sundays (February 19 and 26) and the last two Thursdays (February 16 and 23) of the month.

They would appreciate teams of three to four people who would help with meal preparation, serving and clean-up. On Sundays, that would mean arriving about 9:30 a.m. and finishing about 1 p.m. On Thursdays, it would mean arriving about 3:30 p.m. and finishing about 6 p.m. The meal is already planned and there is someone from the church to supervise and direct. They just need extra hands to get the work done.

There is a sign-up sheet in the wall holder in the Atrium. Consider finding a couple of friends (or make some new ones) and sign up to help with one of the meals. They need to know whether we can provide the help, so please sign up as soon as

possible. You would be providing a service for those who need both the meal and the comfort of knowing that others care.

#### Benefit Concert

LPC's annual Benefit Concert is always a highlight of the year as musicians of all ages share their talents and their faith. This year, the recipient of the monies collected at the concert in worship on February 5 will be **North Coast Health Ministry**. Located in Lakewood, they serve primarily those who cannot

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### Our economy has left many people in situations they never dreamed of or prepared for.

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afford health insurance although they are working and who do not qualify for public assistance or those who have recently lost their insurance due to a job lay off. The agency stretches its dollars by utilizing many volunteer doctors, nurses and office helpers and by writing for grants when-

ever possible.

Dr. Tomsik, Medical Director for North Coast, says "Caring for the uninsured has become increasingly difficult in our current economy. Our number of new patients continues to grow at a brisk rate. This is evident by the growing line at our doors just before 8:30 a.m. each day when our walk-in clinic begins. The conditions we are treating are becoming more and more complicated as more previously insured patients with multiple chronic illnesses are entering into the uninsured population.

Our economy has left many people in situations they never dreamed of or prepared for. We are seeing patients on a daily basis who state that they have always worked and do not know what to do since losing their jobs; people who say they never before have had to deal with lack of insurance or lack of financial security."

Come join others for this special service and consider prayerfully how you can help North Coast Health Ministry meet the increasing needs of those to whom they minister. ❖

# Scout Sunday & *Pancake Breakfast*



On Sunday, February 12, the Scouts chartered to Lakewood Presbyterian Church (Troop 115 and Pack 115) will celebrate Scout Sunday with the LPC congregation at the 10:30 a.m. service.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) annually celebrates its founding on February 8, 1910, based on the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907. Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940s. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their “Duty to God” pledged each week.

The Scout Law says that a “Scout is Reverent” and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their “Duty to God.” These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

Following the service the Scouts will serve a pancake breakfast for all the congregants and scout families. Please join us in Lawther Hall at 11:30 a.m. for pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit salad, orange juice, coffee and tea. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members and scouts to enjoy fellowship and a good meal. A free-will offering to cover the costs will be gladly accepted.

*Rebecca Shaw*  
LPC Chartered Representative to BSA

## Consider “Paying Your Portion”

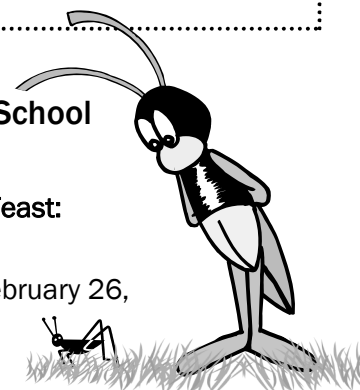
Are you aware that there is a price on your Presbyterian “head?” It’s true! The expenses of operating our Presbyterian denomination (Presbytery, Synod, and the General Assembly) will cost every congregation in our Presbytery \$24.00 per “head” (each member). That translates into \$9,960 for Lakewood Presbyterian Church for 2012. Out of the \$24.00, \$14.12 goes to the Presbytery, \$6.63 to General Assembly and \$3.25 to the Synod.

The Session is asking each member to prayerfully consider “paying their portion” of these necessary expenses over and above their annual pledge to help relieve some of the burden on the church’s annual operating budget. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration. ❖

## Faith Journeys Sunday School

### February Rotations

- **The Parable of the Great Feast:**  
February 5, 12 & 19
- **The Great Commission:** February 26,  
March 4 & 11



## Youth Group Outing

LPC Youth Group is going Moonrock Bowling on February 19. Drivers and reservations are needed. Following worship service, the group will have lunch and then leave for bowling.

## Presbyterian Women Events

- PWR Annual Spiritual Retreat, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Ashtabula, Ohio – Saturday, April 21, 2012, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Theme “What-If Blessings – Seeing the challenges and trials of life as our blessings and mercies in disguise.”
- Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women – July 18-22, 2012, Orlando, Florida. Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. Theme: “River of Hope.” Booklets are available in the literature rack in the Atrium. ❖

## Meeting

*(Continued from page 1)*

Sunday, January 29, but a few extras will be available. Please remember to bring your report with you. It also includes brief reports from all Session ministries, task forces, and other groups. Dr. Butler, who serves as the moderator, has kept his promise that LPC annual meetings should be fun, inspiring, and no more than 60 minutes! So, come, enjoy good food, table fellowship, elect your new leaders, and hear the good news of what God is doing in us and with us and through us! ❖



**OPEN DOOR** (USPS 0094-870) is published monthly, except for the combined July/August issue, by Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 14502 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44107-4388. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to OPEN DOOR, 14502 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107-4388.

Periodical Postage  
Paid  
Cleveland, Ohio



**We are an open and welcoming community of Christians committed to:**

- ◆ Proclaiming Christ's message of hope and salvation
- ◆ Nurturing faith and the exploration of our beliefs
- ◆ Celebrating the faith we share in joyous worship
- ◆ Relieving poverty and oppression, and eliminating social and economic injustice
- ◆ Watching over and affirming one another in love

**Church Staff**

Pastor/Head of Staff	James C. Butler
Pastor Emeritus	Merton McKendry
Minister of Discipleship	Sharon Sherwin Budin
Organist	Paula Maust
Choir Directors	Karen Weaver, Bob Paraska, Natalie Welty, Sara Lindberg, Paula Maust
Administrative Secretary	Marie Andrews
Financial Secretary	Beth Ann Starks
Childcare Provider	Kimberly Hook
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Maintenance Custodian	Todd Strunk
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Submission deadline for Open Door is the 15th of the month for the following issue. E-mail articles to [lesliestewart@prodigy.net](mailto:lesliestewart@prodigy.net). Submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity.

**January Session Highlights**

- Welcomed Nominees for Class of 2015 and reviewed constitutional questions for ordination/installation related to scripture and the Reformed confessional standards
- Voted to endorse motion from Noble Road Church that the Presbytery of the Western Reserve overture the 2012 General Assembly to refrain from reversing the actions of the 2010 General Assembly related to ordination standards and guidelines for examination of candidates
- Elected Subhana Graf, Ricky Haven, and Jan Soeder to serve as LPC's commissioners to the January 2012 Presbytery meeting
- Offered thanks and words of appreciation to members of the Session Class of 2012 who have completed their term of office: Jim Cox, Marlene Parker, Kathy Sands, and Fred Unger
- Interceded in prayer for LPC's ministries in 2012, for various needs of LPC members and friends, and for the unity of the Presbyterian Church (USA)