

325th Anniversary - Celebrating our History From the 1870s Through the 1920s

The Civil War certainly brought much trouble and sadness to all parts of our country, and afterwards our society struggled to establish stability. Our Lewes Presbyterian Church also struggled during the years after the Civil War, mostly from lack of funds. From 1861 to after the first World War, no pastor stayed in Lewes longer than 10 years, and most of them were here for much shorter durations. Our congregation had a hard time paying these pastors. In 1878 the Trustee minutes offer “that a committee of ladies be appointed to solicit contributions for the pastor’s salary, and the incidental expenses of the church.” The minutes record that the ladies solicited three-year pledges of from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per year to support the pastor’s salary.

The lack of qualified pastors also posed a problem for our church. In 1873 the Session voted to enter into an agreement with Coolspring, Rehoboth and Georgetown Presbyterian Churches. “Resolved that we now precede to make out a call to the Rev. Isaiah Welsh of Union Seminary, NY, that we do agree to pay him a salary of one thousand dollars per year . . . the Congregation of Lewes and Rehoboth shall each pay three hundred dollars and Georgetown one hundred dollars in quarterly payments.” Later the minutes of the Session note that Georgetown could not pay their share of the salary for a shared pastor, and the LPC elders deliberated on what action to take for this difficult situation.

Unity within our church also seemed to be a problem for in 1880 the Session minutes quote Reverend William Reese as saying as he resigned, “The want of harmony in the Session is lacking. I think this is time enough to show one that I am not and cannot be useful to any degree in connection with those in Session because we do not agree in the work of the church.” Reverend Reese served our church only four years, 1877-1881.

Despite our troubled ways and lack of funds, our Lord graciously allowed LPC to somehow flourish after the Civil War and helped us maintain our church. In 1877 funds were gathered to build a manse for the pastor, and in the next 30 years, LPC purchased property on Franklin Ave. to enlarge our church property. In 1895 a house was purchased on the northwest side of the church and used for a time as a social hall until it was torn down in 1903 to expand the cemetery. The turn of the century brought new floors to the sanctuary and steam heat. In 1914 the Sunday School addition was constructed which enlarged the church and enabled a stronger program for our congregation. In 1926 our beautiful stained glass windows were added to the Sanctuary to allow our place of worship to be a reminder of God’s presence and glory.



While the church property was being enhanced, largely through the efforts of several LPC members and their contacts, the church program also blossomed. In 1889 the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society was formed. The Young People’s Association was organized in 1888 and continued activity for over 40 years. The Sunday School for children was established and had its first Rally Day Service on September 26, 1897. A beautiful pipe organ was purchased for \$1,200 around the turn of the century and has been the mainstay of our music program ever since.

Our church has had its troubles and disappointments, but because we have tried to pursue God’s will and share His direction for our church, we are an active, loving group of people who will hopefully continue to be God’s people in Lewes and beyond.

Marianne Miller

Transition Update: Congregational Meeting to Elect the Pastor Nominating Committee

LPC's transition process to call a new pastor will enter an important new phase on Sunday, August 6, when a Congregational Meeting has been called for 12:30 p.m. to elect members to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This 11-member committee will be responsible for conducting the search for LPC's next pastor, evaluating candidates, and then recommending the next pastor for election by the congregation to lead LPC after Buz retires at the end of June 2018.

The plan to call a permanent pastor to potentially be installed immediately upon Buz's retirement is a change from the earlier plan to hire a one-year interim pastor to serve before calling a long-term pastor. The Transition Committee recommended to Session that LPC not call an interim, and the Session approved the plan, as did the ECO Heritage Presbytery. The majority of members who attended the May listening luncheon agreed with the Transition Committee that, because Buz gave us an 18-month advance notice of his retirement, we had the time to prepare to call a permanent pastor and to avoid the uncertainty and expense associated with calling a short-term interim pastor.

At its July 18 meeting, the Session nominated the following 11 covenant partners to serve on LPC's Pastor Nominating Committee:

- Ann Athey
- Denise Barnes
- Gerry Brown
- Jim Miller
- Charlene Pappa
- Beth Rendel
- T. J. Smith
- Don Sturtz
- Tim Westgate

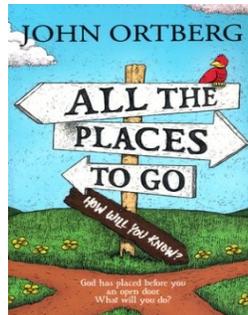
- Nancy Williams
- Ellie Ziegler

While additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Congregational Meeting, if you wish to nominate someone, please contact them in advance to confirm their willingness to serve.

Please join us on Sunday, August 6, at 12:30 p.m. following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, for this short, but important, Congregational Meeting, to be followed by a luncheon to honor and recognize Connie Ballato upon her retirement as LPC's Office Manager.

Adult Sunday School Class Begins Sept. 10

On Sunday, September 10, the Adult Sunday School class will begin a six-week study of John Ortberg's book, *All the Places to Go: How Will You Know?* Using the description of the church in Philadelphia from Revelation 3:7-13, Ortberg concludes that rarely in the Bible does God command someone to stay. He opens a door, and then He invites us to walk through it—into the unknown.



In this six-session DVD study, best-selling author John Ortberg opens our eyes to the countless open doors God places before us every day, teaching us how to recognize them and giving us the encouragement to step out in faith and embrace all of the extraordinary opportunities that await.

If you would like us to order a copy of the book (\$10.00 payable to LPC), or if you need more information, please contact Jim or Marianne Miller.

Our Church Angel



Please join us for a light lunch on August 6, 2017 after the 11:00 a.m. service to recognize and thank **Connie Ballato** as she retires.

Connie has been our church angel, going above and beyond her call of duty. Her kindness is reflected in her response to the myriad requests she receives on a daily basis from church members and the community. Patience is a virtue as observed with her dealings with "The Dreaded Copy Machine," among other things.



In the nearly 15 years Connie has been with us, her technical abilities and her artistic and creative talents have all touched each and everyone of us. We have been blessed as she has also shared her gifts and talents in the praise band, playing her dulcimer, and her many solos.

Connie will be greatly missed in the LPC office because of her gracious presence and ready smile. However we look forward to worshipping with her at our services.