

Stewardship Article for May 2018 Newsletter

What a privilege to be part of the ongoing ministries at LCOC that incorporate all the many gifts and talents of our youth and those of us who are young at heart! There have been so many signs of God's grace at work not only within the church family, but throughout the community and beyond with help from all of you. From the study of the Word to the ministering to the community with events like Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and efforts like partnering with Project-Mend-A-House to the sharing of our faith and fellowship with the BLESS series, there is so much going on. We are truly blessed to be part of God's plan and have the opportunity to share His love for everyone with our hands and hearts. Please plan to continue to join in all the wonderful opportunities as you are able and to engage friends, neighbors, and those you encounter each day.

In addition to other events in the BLESS series, we are working towards a very exciting Italian Night with food prepared by Carrabba's on Tuesday, May 15th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are still available and are super reasonable at \$15 pp (\$10 for children ten and under). In addition to fine Italian cuisine we will have special music by a group from the Bull Run Troubadours. What an easy way to invite people from around the community to receive a blessing from LCOC's gracious hospitality and to get to know each other better. Additionally, this is our first fundraiser to prepare for the March 23, 2019 Rise Against Hunger meal packing event.

Looking even further ahead, we have lots more to come with Family Faith and Fun Nights (four Thursday evenings starting July 12th in lieu of the usual week of Vacation Bible School); the Backpack Drive over the summer to be sure students at Neabsco Elementary are well prepared for the 2018-2019 school year; the I Walk for ACTS which takes place on October 6th and for which the LCOC team has already been set up online; Operation Turkey; and Untrim-A-Tree to be sure the 2018 holiday season will be bright for children in the community. All of these are marvelous opportunities to share with others and grow in our talents, faith, and fellowship.

As you are out shopping, **please consider continuing to purchase a few extra items to help us continue to support ACTS and Neabsco Elementary with food items that truly make a difference** in the lives of many families. Lists of needed items and bags are always available in the narthex. The ACTS food drive goal is 5,000 pounds of food over the course of the month of May with help from Shoppers and the neighbors surrounding that store. Once again, we are stepping out and being bold!

Please continue to share your gifts and talents as the Spirit leads in the variety of ministries provided through LCOC. Thank you also for your generosity in your financial commitment and consider using the Vanco option which can be accessed online at:

<https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco> if you haven't already done so. Please consider becoming a Thrivent member as well and if you already are a member and use

Thrivent products, make use of the Action Team funds that are available to help fund LCOC's ministry projects. This seed money really makes a difference and helps us increase the scope of our service projects.



Words of inspiration:

Let us continue to grow our generous compassion as we are blessed and are a blessing.

Love and blessings,

Patti Beattie