

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2007

Easter - a Time of Newness, Celebration, and Hope

the powers seem deep
And dark at times
symbolized in our Lenten journeys -
The Valley of the Shadows.

we seek something
deeper and lighter
in our lives

we seek a touch
of the Holy
in the midst of the mundane
and unspeakable

we seek a touch
of God, Almighty
to bring light
to dispel darkness
and dreariness

we seek a touch of Jesus
to bring newness of life
refresh tired spirits
to bring resurrection power
to be born from above
to bring forgiveness
and new directions
in a new way and time

we seek a touch of Holy Spirit
to light inner fires
to en light en our spirits anew
to call us forward
in the way of
GOD'S light

We seek a touch
of the Saints of God
walking along the way

sharing
stories
love
grace
hospitality
and
renewal

may God bring
newness
celebration
and hope
in the wondrous tidings
of Easter Resurrection.

- *Wayne*

Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor
and Moderator of Session

2007 Session

Class of 2007: Bill Fischer
Joyce Tesarek Petrik
Barb Wilson

Class of 2008: Terry Gilberstadt
Gary Johnson
Lisa Philips Johnson

Class of 2009: Sue Hensel
Diane Hansen
Dick Gross

Presbytery Commissioners -
Bill Fischer, Sue Goodspeed
Dennis Johnson – Clerk
Butch Goodspeed - Treasurer

Staff:

Jan Johnson – *secretary*
Andrew Crow – *choir coach**
Andrew Tessman – *organist*
Rodney Seek (Best Way) – *custodian**
*(contract position)
Editor-for-the-month - Sue Goodspeed

MISSION STATEMENT - LNPC

In gratitude for God's great love,
freed by the forgiveness we know in
Jesus Christ, and convinced by the Holy
Spirit of our need for Christian community,

we join together as a community of faith
to share Christ's love through worship,
sacraments and prayer;
to grow through education and mutual
support;
to prepare and receive empowerment
for faithful living.

and we go out into the world
to share the joy of God's love;
to open our faith community to others;
to work in the world for justice,
healing, and peace.

Prayer Network

We have been called to communicate with God through prayer. God encourages us to pray for one another and has promised to answer. To enable us to pray effectively for one another and for our church, the LNPC Prayer Network has been organized. Call Pat Erickson, coordinator (612-925-4418) with prayer requests.

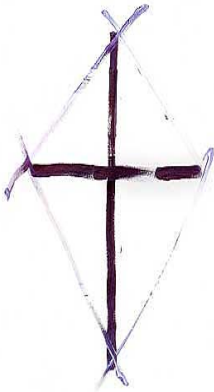
Website

Did you know LNPC has a website? Have you ever looked at it? Check out www.lakenokomispc.org. Find calendars, info, old Current Words, copies of the reVision Context Report... and let the office or Sue Goodspeed know what you think. Suggestions???

Treasurer's Report – February (I don't have the new numbers from the treasurer):

Remember that the work of the church is dependent on your pledged support. Thank you for keeping your pledge up-to-date.

HOLYWEEK - PALM SUNDAY, MAUNDY THURSDAY, EASTER



Worship together, as we participate in the entry into Jerusalem, the watch in Gethsemane, the sharing of the Last Supper, and the celebration of God's unqualified redemption and victory over death.

Palm Sunday, April 1: Sunday School and Adult Ed at 9:00
Worship at 10:30
Fellowship following

Maundy Thursday, April 5: A time of reflection and meditation on Christ's gift of life. Celebration of the Last Supper.

Easter Sunday, April 8: Fellowship and continental breakfast at 9:30
Worship our risen Lord at 10:30

Good Health to All

How do I know if I am really having Chest Pains?

..A common and good Question I hear from Patients and Family Members. Your heart is under your sternal bone - that is the bone you can feel in the middle of your upper chest. You will have a sudden sharp pain, pain that feels like pressure (it is described as if an elephant was walking on their chest.), shortness of breath, pain radiating down your left arm and at times your jaw, and upper back ache. The pain radiates to, and can feel like a stabbing in, the chest and can go on for 2 or 3 days.

Do not ignore these symptoms! Each second you do not see a doctor more damage can be done to your heart muscle. Your heart is what pumps the blood throughout your body, supplies the oxygen to the blood cells when it needs replenishment. Never ignore these symptoms or think "Oh, it will go away." True, it may be your heartburn or a panic attack, but the best thing is to call and talk to a clinic triage nurse. All clinics have phone lines. If you know for sure it is a heart attack or you or your family has a medical history of heart problems do not call your doctor's clinic, **call 911**. Do not have someone take you in. Wait for the ambulance. You could 'code' on the way there, meaning your heart has stopped beating. Do not fight this - you need to be seen so we in the health care unit can assess and do tests necessary to get you under control and stabilized and back on your feet and feeling better.

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Your health is important and the heart is not one to hold off on when you have these symptoms. An example is what has happened to me when I had a 35 year old call the clinic and describe her symptom. I told her to call 911. It sounded as though she was having a hearth attack. Her reply to me was "I can't be having a heart attack - I am too young for that!" Your age does not matter. Even an infant can have a heart attack, heart failure and so on. Don't ever think you're too young or too healthy for a heart attack. Sorry, but to be honest it can be anyone, any age. If you have these symptoms, be seen as soon as possible and don't hold off thinking it will go away. Your Health Is Important and that is my hope and prayer to all. Good health to all.

Kathryn Sathre LPN



Serve Dinner at Simpson Women's Shelter

Sunday, April 29

Interested? Call the
office or 612.866.1294

Session Highlights, March -

(verbatim from the minutes)

"Administration: Admin. plans to trim or cut trees on the property [the maples and overgrown junipers]. As Session lumbered through the details of the proposal, discussion branched to church (in)visibility issues. After boring through the relevant facts, Admin. nailed down a new plank that was approved by acclamation.

The monthly financial statement was examined. Session warmed up to the idea of checking thermostats in the building." Don't you all wish you were on Session??

The Revision process continues with ongoing Reflection Groups. Meeting weekly, three groups are gathering faithfully to discern ways in which LNPC can faithfully live into its vision for ministry.

Next steps involve folding the work of the groups together, and writing a narrative of "who we are and what we will be" to share with the congregation.

revision™

Rev. Herstad challenged Session, and all of us, to consider: 1) how is LNPC engaged in the local and larger community? 2) do we realize we are called to be faithful, not successful? and 3) what kind of "identity church" are we?

Let us continue in prayer for the future of God's work on this corner of the City..

WHAT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

March 2007

Bill Fischer, Elder Commissioner to Presbytery

This was another Saturday meeting of Presbytery so it worked out nicely for me: first, because I didn't have to try and sneak out of work early at 3:30 and second, because the meeting wasn't held in South Kiester, Minnesota (within sight of the Iowa border). The meeting was held at First Presbyterian in South St. Paul – Hey! I remember that church. We held the CMP meetings there the first year that I was on the committee.

It is only a stone's throw down highway 3 from Plato Boulevard and my old Guard unit so the whole neighborhood brings back memories for me.

OK – orders of business (not in the agenda order, but the more pertinent ones I have picked):

- **Macalester Plymouth United** (mixed Presbyterian and United Church of Christ) submitted a 'Resolution For Nonviolence and Protecting Human & Civil Rights'.

The document is a one page item summarizing their concerns about our foreign policy in particular and what appears to be the national "party doctrine" in dealing with humanity in general.

The five declarations which follow basically state that 1) we should implement ...policies based on peacemaking and the pursuit of justice, fairness and shalom, 2) that [the U.S.A.] should work for communication and enforcement of the U.N. charter, international treaties and agreements, 3) that [the U.S.A.] should not start a pre-emptive war justified by misinformation, 4) the USA should protect constitutional rights of due process and 5) that the United States of America should not apply torture or degrading treatment of human beings but should support "...every effort for the promotion of human and civil rights".

[I'm sure that you can get a copy in its entirety from PTCA website at www.ptcaweb.org.]

What I would exhort you to do is write some letters to your Congress people and Senators and let 'em know how you feel. Even if you feel that the document "needs some work" this is a good time for you to write John and Amy and Michelle and Norm and show them how you'd rework it. Gotta make those people earn their pay somehow!

- When we pull the pink paper out of our envelopes that means that it's time for Rev. Meg Neuswanger's report on **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**.

We (Presbytery) approved Kerri Allen (from Dayton Avenue Presbyterian in St. Paul) as an inquirer after the ministry of word and sacrament. That means that the way is clear for her to tackle seminary and get her Master's degree and ask the Presbytery to examine her for candidacy.

We also approved Kara Reid Walker for ordination. She is from Milwaukee but because of some technicalities in their ordination standards (the Milwaukee Presbytery) it was easier for her to get ordained here than accept a call in Wisconsin.

We also permitted an exemption to Dean Seal who has passed all of the ordination exams except Greek, due to a brain injury: it affects how fast he learns a foreign language. He is still learning Greek but now won't be expected to master it in fourteen weeks. He'll have a little longer. I'm glad because I know Dean and he will one day make a pretty good preacher.

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And now – The Council Report to Presbytery:

This was the most contentious thing that came up, not because it was budget stuff but because it highlighted the rather rough straits into which the denomination, not just the Presbytery, has sailed in the past twenty years.

The last time these guys reported to Presbytery they had their feet held to the fire because they had gone ahead with the process of eliminating some staff, including installed officers (not quite kosher in our system).

This time they laid the books out:

- The expected (Presbytery) income from individual donors has averaged around \$25,000 annually. This expectation has been lowered to \$5,000.
- The expected giving from whole congregations has been around \$320,000. It has been lowered to \$310,000.
- We had a special income line of \$60,000 for new church development. There are no more funds available so the special income line has been removed.

The result of this is that Presbytery is forced to cut one or both of two areas: Staff and/or Programs.

We had three options:

- A. Retain staff at current levels; reduce programs by 24%.
- B. Change Associate Executive to half time; lower programs by 17%.
- C. Eliminate Associate Executive completely. Reduce programs by 12%.

After a lot of speeching and groaning the Presbytery voted, by a large margin, to adopt B.

And now – My Turn...

I'm glad I procrastinated until today (Sunday, March 18, 2007) to write this. This morning, Pastor Wayne challenged us with the question of whether we had ever done anything in our lives which asserted our commitment to a life in Christ, even though it may cause pain and even threaten us.

I think that the denomination as a whole is at that juncture and I believe that we (Presbyterians) have been there for several years.

I believe that the denomination has become impoverished through the acts of persons who intended to use it for their own personal or ideological ends or at the least, to imprint their own version of "Christianity" on us – a version which I believe has little or no basis in the reformed and grace-based theology that I have come to know and love.

As a result of their failure to accomplish their ends over the last 15-20 years, many of them are leaving (in frustration) to join other denominations or even start one of their own.

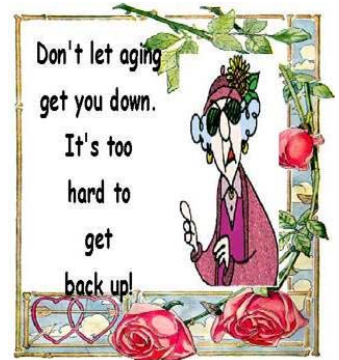
This is not happening to Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church; it is not happening to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; it is happening to the entire PCUSA, possibly along with some fellow denominations.

Because of this I think things (especially economically) may get worse before they get better. But I do believe that they will get better if those of us with conscience listen to our hearts and discern through the Holy Spirit what we must do.

And when the day comes that the furniture has been looted or repossessed – at least we'll be starting with clean floors. With Love - Bill

"Getting older *is* everything is cracked up to be" (WC Fields)

The Parish Nursing Program Presents:



What? Independent Living with Home Care
Why? Living independently can mean accepting home care as some activities become more difficult. This presentation provides information about the types of home care available, costs, payment sources and safety issues/tips to know when having a home care worker in your house.

Who? Linda Walker, Licensed Social Worker, Community Outreach Senior Service, SW Center, sponsored and brought to us by TRUST, an LNPC supported community outreach.

When? SUNDAY, APRIL 15, NOON

Where? Library

FOR ANYONE CONCERNED WITH HOME CARE FOR SELF, FAMILY, OR OTHERS



~ALL CHURCH RETREAT~ Friday-Sunday, April 20-22

We will be gathering at Clearwater Forest near Lake Mille Lacs. A registration form and a map are enclosed in this issue of Current Word. Our theme is "*What a Wonderful World*". Wayne Herstad will be leading four sessions that will explore topics including global warming, eco-justice and many other relevant topics to provide meaty discussion and leave us with an interest to explore our faith in the context of world ecology. Wayne's broad world knowledge, travels and studies will give us a very interesting and challenging look at these issues and how they challenge us as Christians. FUN - is always right at the top of our list on these retreats! We will have lots of time for fellowship and individual free time. Come up for all or part of the weekend! We have the entire Eagle Lodge - a beautiful turn of the century stone mansion that has been recently updated. There are many cozy places to meet and to get away - it is like staying in a beautiful B & B!! *Plenty of hot water and a view of Clearwater Lake from the front porch and the kitchen sink, too!*



Collected on Palm Sunday, Easter - and anytime after - the funds designated for **One Great Hour of Sharing** are used in the U.S. and around the world, through the Presbyterian Church(USA) and also ecumenically through Church World Service. During the past 20 years, the PC(USA) has received gifts of about \$10 million each year to support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Coming to Minneapolis- - Westminster Presbyterian, 12th and Nicollet Mall

The Westminster Town Hall Forum series ("key issues in ethical perspective") this season includes names familiar to those who have been able to participate in the Adult Education series, "Saving Jesus."

April 19: John Shelby Sprong, Episcopal leader and liberal Christian, author of "Jesus for the Non-religious"

April 26: John Dominic Crossan, professor at DePaul University and co-founder of the Jesus Seminar.

The complete schedule is on-line at www.westminster.org, or on the bulletin board at LNPC.



"... No, HE STILL DOESN'T HAVE A JOB, HIS WIFE IS STILL LEAVING HIM AND HE'S STILL GETTING EVICTED AND HE STILL OWES THE IRS \$50,000,000, BUT WE PROMISED HIM NO MORE 'PEACE AND UNITY' WORKSHOPS!"

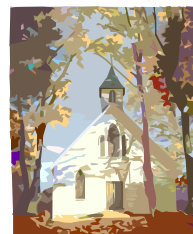
Text: "... No, he still doesn't have a job and he's still getting evicted and he still owes the IRS \$50,000, but we promised him no more 'peace and unity' workshops!"

...the artistic and cryptic work of Bill Fischer.

“Look, on that corner... is it a school? Is it an office?

No! it's a church!”

The Membership Team of Session, plus voluntary add-ons from the congregation, discussed “curb appeal,” among other things, at their meeting in March. Key in the conversation was the awning over the front door and the impression (or lack of) of the building as a “church.” To begin to address this, an architect was consulted (very preliminarily), and some exciting, low-cost and high-impact ideas were uncovered. In addition to any construction, there was interest in opening our lawn area to the neighborhood through gardens, benches, and art. There was also assessment of a location for a potential “lift” – an lower-cost and -space alternative to an elevator. If any of these things are of interest, or if you have comments, please talk with the Team: from Session – Diane Hansen and Lisa Johnson, and also including Dennis Johnson, Sue Goodspeed, Aleta Isaacson, Marg Saxrud, Terry Gilberstadt and Gary Johnson.



PTCA Focus on: *KWANZAA COMMUNITY CHURCH, North Minneapolis:*

Kwanzaa

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Jeremiah 29:7

While being the first specifically African-American Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota, led by Pastors Ralph and Alika Galloway, Kwanzaa opens its arms to any who share the vision of a worshipping community bringing the Kingdom of God to North Minneapolis. Begun as a new church development by the presbytery (all of us), and using the facility offered by the aging Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Kwanzaa is shining as a light on a stand in its neighborhood. A central focus on children has led them to begin the *Nia Imani Youth and Family Development Center*, whose mission is to “increase the productive capacity of African American families in the Hawthorne/ Jordan neighborhoods. Developing youth as leaders within their families is stressed.” They have purchased a second, abandoned, church facility a few blocks from their home base at 2100 Emerson Ave. North to serve *Nia Imani*, as well as a neighborhood apartment building which is being renovated to serve as transitional housing for single mothers. At least three members have been supported in discerning their calls to ordained ministry.

They have heard God's call – let us celebrate with them!

