

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2008

EARTH DAY, April 22, will be celebrated twice this year – in our Sunday worship service, April 20th and TUESDAY evening, April 22nd, with a unique opportunity to see, meet and hear about ‘The Great Warming.’ Our guest that evening, Al Frechette, has been working in environmental issue for 20 years. He has produced materials and been involved on front line issues and local decision making. Practical and knowledgeable, Al also brings a solid theological training to his passion for God’s creation. Let’s celebrate God’s gift and show our gratitude by becoming better informed and hearing about new practical ways we can return thanks to the Great Creator.

Wayne-



Called "the best film about global warming ever produced,"

THE GREAT WARMING

examines evidence that human activities are provoking an unprecedented era of atmospheric warming and climatic events. The film also showcases initiatives aimed at reversing the trend toward permanent damage to our planet,

as well as scenes documenting the emerging voice of America’s faith community urging action on climate change.

Join with friends and neighbors **Tuesday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m.**

Discussion following the film will be led by Al Frechette, Environmental Health Manager for Scott County (and friend of Wayne’s)

Inside:

*ArtSpace - new installation in April - OPENING APRIL 4
Earth Day film and discussion -" The Great Warming"
CPR Class coming
News and Notes....*

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING WHY EASTER WAS SO EARLY ~

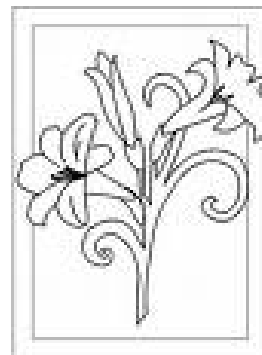
from the PC(USA) Directory of Worship

For Western Christians (Catholics and Protestants) the Day of Easter is the first Sunday that comes after the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21 (the Spring Equinox) — occasionally shifted to the following Sunday, when the original date happens to coincide with the Jewish Passover. (There is actually a difference between the "Paschal full moon" and the "astronomical full moon" that we can't begin to explain.) This computation means that Easter always occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. The Eastern Churches (Greek and Russian Orthodox, e.g) use a different set of astronomical tables based on the Julian Calendar (instead of the Gregorian), which means that Orthodox Easter generally follows the Western date by one, four or five weeks (sometimes occurring in early May). *[talk to Constantine Topoluk!]*

The beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday is calculated by counting backwards 46 days from Easter Sunday — 46 and not 40 because the forty-day fast of Lent does not include the always festive celebration of the Lord's Day (i.e., the six Sundays in Lent, including Palm/Passion Sunday).

The season of Easter begins with the Day of the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday) and extends for fifty days (covering eight Sundays). The last of these Sundays is, of course, Pentecost (from the Greek for "fiftieth day").

There have been attempts over the years to standardize the calendar — from the Quartodeciman Controversy of the second century A.D. (which attempted to tie the Easter celebration to Passover), to an initiative at the Second Vatican Council, to a 1977 proposal that Easter always be celebrated on the day after the second Saturday in April. It never seems to stick.



Thanks

Dear Friends:

I would like to thank everyone for the love and concern for me while I was in the hospital with pneumonia. Thanks for the cards, Wayne's visit and all other ways of love shown. I even got a delivered Ham & Cherry Pie Dinner. Also to Barb & Lee who filled in for me in the office. I am 99% fully recovered now and am thankful for that. Thanks again to all.

Love & God's Blessings Jan Johnson



Baptisms mark Spring!

The congregation joins the families in celebrating the baptisms of Sydney Beckrich, daughter of Amy and Chad and sister of Macy; and of Lucas and Jenna, son and daughter of Allison and Richard Leicht. It is a joy and honor to join in the life journeys of these wonderful windows on God's love.

A **CPR CLASS** has been scheduled for Sunday, April 27th, after church, from noon to 4:00. The class can accommodate up to 15 people [10 registered as of 3/15]. The cost is \$10.00 per person [cost includes equipment that will be use for demonstration and practice]. Training includes a video, during which a light lunch will be provided, and will be taught by Paul Wampler EMT, a CPR instructor certified by the American Heart Association.

If you are interested in learning this life-saving skill, **sign up in the narthex by April 13th**. Priority will be given to LNPC members, but others in the community are welcome.



Community Notes:

TRUST - (Toward Renewed Unity in Service Together) - the coalition of SW Mpls churches of which LNPC is a part holds its annual **Plant Swap and Sale**. A variety of perennials and ground covers, all healthy splits from neighbors' yards, are available in the parking lot at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Avenue South. Come feed your need for Spring!



Fund Raiser for the Parish Nurse Program~ share a hearty **Breakfast at Applebee's**, 3200 W. Lake Street (Calhoun Village), and help raise funds for Parish Nursing! All you can eat pancakes, plus bacon, eggs, coffee... all for \$7 (\$6 seniors). *Good food, great cause...*

Pastor Nominating Committee: the PNC is moving right along... We've now had phone conversations with eight candidates (after looking over dozens of applications), are hearing tapes of sermons, and are calling references. We are exhausted but very encouraged by the depth and quality of people interested in serving with us. Thank you for your continuing prayers and patience.

Sue Goodspeed, Sue Hensel, Gary Johnson, Norm Petrik, Barb Wilson

The **Membership Team** will keep us hopping! Ideas were flying at the last meeting, and the results are a wonderful array of socializing, study, and service.

Friday, April 4: Opening reception for the ArtSpace exhibit of photographer Erin Harrington. Join the fun, 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22: Earth Day viewing of the film "**The Great Warming**" - with discussion led by Al Frechette, Environmental Health Manager of Scott County. 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Coming in May:

Sunday, May 4: Serve evening meal at the **Simpson Women's Shelter** 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 9: Back, for your enjoyment, **GAME NIGHT!** 6:30 p.m. for dinner.

Sunday, May 18: Join the team to walk, or be an encourager, as we raise funds to help research and respite on the **MN AIDS WALK**.

....Fun times, busy times - a place for everyone!

From Don and Lois Bodin ~

"Dear Nokomis Presbyterians: *[I think they live too close to Disney World - ed.]*

Hope everything is going well for each of you and our church. It sounds like your weather has been a little more Wintery than usual. We hope everyone survived and look forward to a beautiful spring.

We expect to be home the first part of May and look forward to returning to the

cities. The weather has been very warm, but almost no rain for several months. We have water restrictions, so the greenery is turning brown.

Lois is recovering from Rotator Cuff surgery and going through rehab. We have our 58th anniversary on the 18th of this month *[March]* and this will be soon followed by our 80th birthdays. Where does all the time go?

Our best wishes to all, Don and Lois

Food for Thought and Prayer: ... bringing issues and the church's theological struggle together...

Allan Boesak speaking at
Church of All Nations
Sunday April 6, 2008, at 6:30pm!

Great Reformed pastor, scholar, author and anti-apartheid activist Allan Boesak will preach on "*Racial Reconciliation: The Church's Great Unfinished Work*" at Church of All Nations, followed by a time for Q&A and dialogue. We invite the entire Twin Cities Christian community to interact with this global figure and a key architect of the modern, post-apartheid, democratic and multicultural nation of South Africa today.

Church of All Nations
4301 Benjamin St. NE
Columbia Heights, MN

The **Presbyterian Washington Office** is the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. The church has a long history of applying these biblically and theologically-based insights to issues that affect the public

— maintaining a public policy ministry in the nation's capital since 1946.

Reformed theology teaches that because a sovereign God is at work in all the world, the church and Christian citizens should be concerned about public policy. In addition, Presbyterian forefather John Calvin wrote, "Civil magistracy is a calling not only holy and legitimate, but by far the most sacred and honorable in human life."



The **Coalition of Imokalee Workers** is launching a national petition drive to demand that employers improve the wages and working conditions of the workers who pick their tomatoes for the fast-food industry, and join an effort to eliminate modern-day slavery and human rights abuses from Florida's fields. The petition campaign comes on the 200th anniversary of the US ban against the importation of slaves, and echoes key strategies of the early abolitionist movement that helped hasten the end of slavery in the 19th century.



University of Minnesota Music Department concerts:

May 2 - 7:30 p.m.: Ted Mann Concert Hall. Choirs present Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana.' It's a treat! Featuring: Chamber Singers (Andrew Crow), Concert Choir (Aaron and Leah), Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, Wind Ensemble.

ARTSPACE OPENING RECEPTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
7 - 9 p.m.

~ moments of clarity ~



We can't do everything, and sometimes it doesn't seem like we can do much at all, but *this*, we can **do!**

**Walk, support, raise funds, join the
LNPC 2008 AIDS WALK Team!**

Sunday, May 18, 11:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Minnehaha Park, join thousands of people who care about prevention and education, and about services and advocacy for those suffering from AIDS. Many from LNPC will be circulating pledge sheets in an effort to break our 2007 collection of \$855! Look in the library for information about registering.

We can do it!

Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor
and Moderator of Session

2008 Session

Class of 2008: Terry Gilberstadt
Gary Johnson
Lisa Phillips Johnson

Class of 2009: Sue Hensel
Diane Hansen
Dick Gross

Class of 2010: Aleta Isaacson
Jane Kutz
Norm Petrik

Presbytery Commissioners -
Bill Fischer, Barb Day
Alternate: 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 - Sue Goodspeed

Committees of Session: Administration (Gary, Dick, Aleta), Worship (Sue), Membership (Diane, Lisa, Jane), Education (Terry, Sue, Norm), Personnel (Terry, Dick, Lisa, Norm).

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, interests or *anything* you'd just like to share, please talk with a Session member!

Board of Deacons: The Deacons function as a unit, sharing responsibility for visitation and ministries of presence with those in transition. Members are: Marge Bantle, John Bixby, Sue Goodspeed, JoAnne Hansen, Betty Johnson, Bobbe Larson, Georgia Mroska, Pat Niznick, and Eva Webb, and Kathryn Sathre, Parish Nurse Associate.

MISSION STATEMENT - LNPC
(as approved with the Revision Statement
of October, 2007)

The Mission of LNPC is

**- to become a beacon of hope and a
place of sanctuary**

**- to reach out to the needs of
neighbors, sharing our selves and
our resources.**

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.

It's been awhile - let's get rolling (or dealing)!



GAME NIGHT
Friday, May 9
6:30 dinner, 7:00 games!

Fishing opener may be at midnight, and Mother's Day and Pentecost in two days, but Friday is for games - bring your friends, your neighbors, yourself - and your favorite game.

Serving our community:

Lake Nokomis is on the schedule to serve dinner at the:

Simpson Women's Shelter
Sunday, May 4
6:00 p.m.

Watch for an opportunity to sign up to bring food, or to serve (limited to 5 people).



"I'm so thankful that I found the Simpson Women's Shelter. It was a place to sleep, to call home, but it was also a place to put my things during the day."

- Cynthia, Simpson Women's Shelter resident now living independently

All of us encounter people in need as we become part of our community.

Occasionally people stop by the church looking for assistance. The church's policy is to provide direction rather than financial assistance. The following resources are often suggested:

First Call for Help

612.335.5000

(24-hour referral service for just about any need that exists)

If food or housing are requested, we have ongoing relationships with:

Simpson Foodshelf

612.874.7741

Simpson Shelter

612.874.0306 (Men)

612.870.1330 (Women)

WHAT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

shared with love by Bill Fischer

The January “Bills and Overtures” meeting, which was held at Valley Presbyterian on March 8th, was like old home week for me. Valley is the church at which I became a Presbyterian (formally, through adult baptism) about 45 years ago. It was my first youth group, my first choir and my first look at church politics.

The building is basically the same except for a new second floor over the old class areas and they scored a pipe organ recently from Oliver Presbyterian - a congregation that merged in 2007 with Hope/Richfield and abandoned their worship space.

I recognized maybe two faces – quite a bit older as they were from my parent’s generation – from that long ago time. It has been quite a journey.

The meeting itself was surprising in that January is where all the really contentious issues and nasty infighting takes place - but this year it was pretty tepid.

In the bills and overtures area two significant things took place: we re-iterated (by popular vote) overtures on peace and peacemaking (especially in Iraq).

We also debated an overture aimed at stemming what some presbyteries see as a trend toward jumping right to judicial remedies whenever two or more people have a dissenting opinion. Think of the overture as an attempt at controlling litigation (in the Church) that may be frivolous. The idea behind the overture is to channel people to use the pre-judicial processes available for protest and dissent (which are all in your Book of Order) *before* demanding that the General Assembly convene another Nicene Council because the complainants don’t like the view from their parking spot at church.

I think it was met with favorably by our august body.

A couple of familiar names cropped up in the consent agenda: Rev. Lindsey Biddle who is married to Rev. John Mann who used to be at Peace Presbyterian, was granted permission to continue laboring “outside the bounds of the Presbytery” - She and her husband have been ministers in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Glasgow for a number of years now.

Rev. Lou Bender has received permission to labor “outside the jurisdiction” as an interim at a U.C.C. church, locally.

Finally, we approved two new inquirers, Sarah Berry and Michael Gyura and one candidate for ordination (to ministry of Word and Sacrament), David Berge. We also received to Presbytery two, new Minister Members: Dr. Medhat S. Yowkem, from Egypt. He was raised in the Coptic Orthodox Church there and comes to us from the Synod of the Nile Presbytery in Egypt; and Rev. Stephen Muhia, from the Presbytery of Nairobi, in Kenya.

Presbytery also finished off ahead of schedule which I worry might be an apocalyptic sign.

And with that, I drove away from the church to which I was drawn, 45 years ago by a deeply theological moment of epiphany.

OK, Ok! I was 15 and I had a crush on a girl that went there. Satisfied?

