



THE CURRENT WORD

LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2006

PREPARE THE WAY ---

Prepare our hearts

with tenderness which emerges from the touch of loved ones and the movement of light and God in our midst – Immanuel. God has come, God is present, God will continue to come as we worship together, pray together, sing together, serve together and eat together. We prepare our hearts through the elements of divine connection.

Prepare our minds

with guidance from above. During Advent, our time of preparation for the Christ child to be born again into our hearts, we have the opportunity to prepare our minds through Elizabeth and Zechariah, Simeon, Anna, Mary and Joseph. We will visit them each Sunday morning to be inspired and taught by God's Spirit in our spirits. In both worship services and adult education we will share new visions through the lives around Jesus at birth.

Prepare our lives

as we too are invited to visit the infant Jesus with our gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We are invited the heavenly star light to journey to the bleak and harsh mangers of our time, bringing the energies and gifts God asks us to share. Each one of us is in a unique place to find new ways to worship the child through giving our lives and activities for him. We are the eyes and hands and feet of God in the world. We are those who follow 'the way' of Jesus. We prepare our lives and give our lives, Christmas of 2006.

Blessings and love from Wayne and Rose as we all gather in the name of Christ and in the presence of God.

Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor and
Moderator of Session

2006 Session

Gary Johnson –Administration
Terry Gilberstadt –
Personnel/Nominating
Sue Goodspeed – Worship
Alisa Lucas – Worship
Joyce Tesarek Petrik – Education
Bill Fischer – Education / Nominating
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

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.

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.

**~ LOOKING AHEAD,
FOR YOUTH ~**



Every three years (this will be obvious), the Presbyterian Church (USA) sponsors the

Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a week of spiritual formation and Christian discipleship for High School youth from around the country. The 2007 Triennium, "Hope is in Our Midst," will be held July 17-22 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Look into this amazing opportunity by looking through information in the church office or going to

www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

- the life of the presbytery -



SUMMIT 2006 - 216 Clergy and lay members of presbytery, representing about 50 churches, met in mid-November to share in visioning a renewing purpose and structure of the Presbytery. From that experience, six "Innovation Teams" were formed: Technology, Leadership, Communications, Conversations About Differences, Clusters as Committees, Cluster Accountability, and Cluster Formation. Perhaps obviously, the concept of "clustering" congregations by regional or missional relationships was the primary dynamic of the weekend. A sense of optimism, tinged with concern about our ability to minister together despite theological differences, was carried away from the weekend - God has a purpose for this denomination in this place, we just have to listen and follow! For detailed information and timelines for implementation, follow the links on the presbytery website: <http://www.ptcaweb.org>.

WHAT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY - November

This month I headed out to the meeting, happy that it would be in a place I was pretty sure I knew. I left work a little early so I could get to Valley Presbyterian, I church I had once attended. Everything was going great, as I passed Ridgedale, on highway 12, I was content knowing that I would probably get to Valley on time. As I approached Louisiana avenue in St. Louis Park, a nagging little voice said "...?? or was it at Peace Presbyterian this month in St. Louis Park...??" Being the paranoid individual that I am I decided to make an unscheduled turn up Louisiana and then over onto Cedar Lake Road. Yep. Presbytery was at Peace, not Valley.

Fortunately, I knew where that church was, too. And so ...

I gave a little address in support of the PIPP missions, thanking, on behalf of all the connectional ministries, the Presbytery for the financial support they have provided to the missions over the years. The Hungary mission is still going (this year between August 1 to 17) and they are planning a trip to Cuba, also. See Wayne about Cuba.

The Presbytery also presented a summary of the Summit meeting but it was pretty long. *[see previous article]*

Presbytery moved two persons from the status of 'Inquirer' (somebody in the seminary process planning on ordination) to 'Candidate' (ready to ordain as soon as they get the call). These were Kathryn ("Cat") Nichols and Benjamin Park. We also approved Bounpheng Chitnay as a 'Commissioned Lay Pastor' for work in the Far East. Quick! Say his name 50 times fast!

The lion's share of the evening was spent celebrating the 50th anniversary of PCUSA ordaining women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and in our presbytery alone there are about 180 of them.

And there is an interesting wrap up: Last night I was at the Committee for Preparation for Ministry where we approved another young woman for candidacy – she was already ordained as a Southern Baptist minister but that group yanked their female clergy a few years back. Too bad. Their loss, our gain. *With Love, Bill Fischer, Presbytery Commissioner*

**Special Fellowship Hour to Celebrate Christmas!
Cookie Feast ~ December 17th!**

Following Worship on Sunday, December 17th, all members, friends, visitors...EVERYONE!... is invited to a Cookie Feast! The Deacons is providing the opportunity to share some of your favorite Christmas cookie traditions with one another. Each person or family is asked to bring two dozen cookies. If that isn't possible, come anyway and share a big warm smile! We will all sample some delectable treats, and everyone will get a goodie sampler box to take home. Savor them by the fire or tree; share them with a neighbor or friend. If you will be bringing cookies and can decide ahead of time which of your favorite recipes you want to share, please call either Jo Hansen (612.721.396) or Aleta Isaacson (612.724.3626) and let us know so we can prepare for a tasty, varied, array.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas will be ordered soon! Orders may be placed by signing up on the sheet in the hallway outside the office, or by calling the office at 612.721.4463.

Color choices are red, white, or pink. The cost is \$14. Plants may be taken by the donors after December 26, or may be left for sanctuary decoration and, later, delivery to members of the congregation

**Worship as we
look toward the
season of Advent:**

Session approved the recommendation of the Worship Team that we have

ONE Christmas Eve service this year.



Christmas Eve falls on Sunday. We will have morning service at 10:30 (no Sunday School), and a traditional Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols at 4:00 p.m. Please think of this as you plan your family activities for the evening.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bob McDonald
December 22



GOOD HEALTH TO ALL

What is Shingles?

Shingles is very common. Fifty percent of all Americans will have had shingles by the time they are 80. While shingles occurs in people of all ages, it is most common in 60 to 80 year olds. Shingles is a painful skin disease caused by a reactivation of the chickenpox virus. It is distinctive because it affects only one side of the body. The early signs of shingles usually develop in three stages: severe pain or tingling, possibly itchy rash, and blisters that look like chicken pox.

The virus that causes shingles is a herpes virus. Once you are infected with this kind of virus, it remains in your body for life. It stays inactive until a period when your immunity is down. If you have had chickenpox, shingles is not contagious. Nothing will happen to you if you are exposed to someone who has had shingles. If you never had chickenpox, however, avoid contact with anyone who has shingles, the fluid from their open blisters is infectious.

The pain of shingles can be vary painful and persists for months or years, and unfortunately it is a common symptom in people over 60. A new vaccine is now out for shingles, and is highly recommended for persons 60 and over. Please talk to your doctor about receiving this vaccine to help build up your immune system especially if you have an immunity disorder, etc., HIV, Aids, CA treatments or a transplant operation.

Good Health to All.

Kathryn Sathre LPN

Treasurer's Report - October:

Unrestricted income:	\$ 9,441.80
Designated income:	<u>200.00</u>
Total Income:	\$9,641.80
Unrestricted income to meet Annual Budget (month)	11,333.25
October actual expenses:	\$ 10,334.12

PLANTING THE GARDEN -

GROWING HOPE!

The Stewardship theme is all about growing. We are part of Work that is much greater than we. From Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (3.6-7):

*"I planted. Apollos watered, but **God** gave the growth. So neither the one who plants or the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth... We are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."*

SEASONS OF STEWARDSHIP

Dear Friends,

With the leaves falling and the harvest of crops coming to an end, we reflect.

We reflect on the changes of the seasons and the good fortune we celebrated on Thanksgiving with our family and friends. It is now time to look forward to planting the seeds for 2007.

Stewardship... I checked with my good friend, *Webster*, and here is what he had to say:

Stew'ard·ship

Function: *noun*

1: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward.

2: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially*: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Let's look at #2 very closely.

God has entrusted Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church to us. We, as good stewards, must conduct, supervise and manage this as carefully and responsibly as possible.

I also checked with one of my Grandmother's favorite books, *The Bible*, and here are some thoughts:

And [Jesus] looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on." (NAS, Luke 21:1-4)

"For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give -- large or small -- will be used to measure what is given back to you." (TLB, Luke 6:38)

Each of us has something to give. Some have wealth, some have talents, some have time. Whatever gifts we have been given -- large or small -- we should share generously. When we do, we make the world better for someone else and find true meaning and satisfaction in our own lives. Let's all think about the garden we plan for next year. With your help, we can have a bountiful harvest at LNPC!
~~ADMINISTRATION TEAM

LNPC Leadership - WE NEED YOU!

The Nominating Committee is working diligently to find the next classes of leaders for the congregation. If you have an interest in being a Deacon ("a ministry of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ" according to the Book of Order) or a Ruling Elder ("persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry" from 1st Corinthians), please contact Aleta Isaacson or Bill Fischer. This interim period is an exciting time to serve with "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love," a time of fresh vision and possibility.

The slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation for their vote at the Annual Meeting January 28, 2007.

...work of the Personnel Committee

Staff reviews will be taking place in December this year. We invite everyone in the congregation to fill out a staff evaluation form. Our hard-working staff love compliments (and constructive suggestions)!! The forms are located in the church office in the Personnel box, or contact Jan or Wayne for a copy. We will be meeting with Andrew Crow and Andrew Tessman on Thursday evening, December 7th and with Jan Johnson on Friday, December 8th. Wayne Herstad, as an Interim Pastor, will not be reviewed at this time.

The Privileges of Membership

This is not a pitch for a platinum credit card.

Membership at LNPC is governed by the rules of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Your membership is guaranteed through your individual:

- Baptism
- Profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer from another church
- Receipt into membership through an act of Session
- Voluntarily submission to the government of the church
- Active participation in worship and the work of the church

While LNPC could define additional membership criteria, we don't. You have my assurance that we welcome everyone who seeks membership and meets these criteria! It's quite likely that the nominating committee will even ask you to serve in a leadership role!

The privileges of membership include tangible things like participation in the sacraments (baptizing your children and receiving the Lord's Supper), active participation in meetings and voting, holding office. Plus, there are all of the intangible benefits of our association, all those things that define this church family. Membership is terminated by transfer to another church or by request.

There is a category of membership called, "inactive," which means you can't vote or hold office but otherwise includes the benefits of "active" membership. Session generally interprets inactive to include members who *could* but

- Haven't participated in a regular worship service for one or more years (homebound members are *never* "inactive")
- Don't participate in leadership, meetings or vote
- Don't participate in other "life of the church" activities
- Cannot be located or do not return correspondence

"Inactive" includes members who have moved away physically or spiritually from our community. Session has authority to change membership status.

What is your membership status?

Session is required to examine the membership roles annually and "to counsel with those who have neglected the responsibilities of membership" (*Book of Order G-5.0502*) That time has arrived!

We are in a formal transition of leadership and it is incumbent on Session and each of us to ask where we are going as a church community. Part of this assessment includes reviewing our membership status.

- Am I an active member or not?
- What is my level of commitment to the future of this congregation?
- Will I worship?
- Will I participate in the life of the church in our community as a volunteer?
- Will I accept a leadership role as an elder or deacon?

Our individual circumstance and relationship with God will provide the answers to these questions.

Session does not intend to shame or alienate members as we conduct this process. If you or a loved one is contacted by the Clerk with regard to membership, please don't be offended. Session is asking necessary questions and looking to our church's future.

Submitted by Dennis Johnson, Clerk of Session

