



THE CURRENT WORD

LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2007

Dear Friends,

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church is on the cusp of what can be an exhilarating time in the life of our congregation. During this interim time between installed pastors, one of the great gifts to the church is the time and charge for discernment. The Session has decided to utilize a process, ReVision, to clarify our direction as we seek to express the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ in our corner of the city.

The process we are undertaking is not intended to be a “quick fix.” It has no proscribed result. It will be time-consuming and exciting. It is based on a thorough and honest assessment of who we are (through a survey and small listening groups), who our neighbors are (using an ethnographic profile – combining demographics with wants and needs), and how we see our mission in light of that context.

The first step was Session's commitment to the process. Step Two is completing the congregational surveys, which was accomplished at the Annual Meeting.

Step Three, to begin the week of February 18th, will involve the congregation in small-group conversations about our Biblical call to be people in mission, who we and the surveys say we are, who our neighbors are, and where God might be guiding us in response to all this.

Step Four brings the leadership together, responding to the collective wisdom from the small groups, to define a vision and a three-year plan with which we can move forward with energy and purpose.

We have an opportunity to find and define the path Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church will travel into our future. Let's link arms and join in the journey!

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 ^{*2 years}
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.

Continuing the Journey ~

Now, just as we have settled in a bit, is the time God calls us to renew the journey. We have the privilege of seeking God's leading through a process called ReVision. ReVisioning is a creative way for us to talk together about being together in Christ. The Body of Christ, LNPC, will share in building a new vision statement, and share information and feelings which will lead to the establishment of a Pastoral Nominating Committee and a new Church Information Form.

Theologically, in God language, we live in the in-between time. Like the ancient Israelites, we have become a people of the tents, following God in-between pastors. And this is a time to again pray and reflect on our pilgrimage together. As the Body of Christ, gathering as LNPC, what is the call of God through Christ for this time and this place? For me, this is the key question and point of it all – what does it mean to be faithful in witness and mission for Christ, as his Body, here and now, and as we move toward future ministries and missions?

Being an interim pastor means that I too live in a tent, sort of. And that I, too, live in a time of in-between-ness. What is important is to remember the wonder and mystery of God in our midst as we witness to bonds of faith far stronger than anything else. We each and all need to remember that, for God, all time is interlinked. God has been with us in the past. God is with us in the present. God will continue to be with us in the future. No matter what! That is the promise through Christ, that is what we affirm in our faith. May God continue to bless and lead us as we seek to worship and work together.

Wayne

Our Church's Anniversary



Another reason to celebrate – 2007 is the 85th anniversary of the chartering of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church!!

As we move ahead, let us always remember the vision, hope and love with which we have been surrounded.

The View From CE

Right now we're in the middle of the 'Saving Jesus' discussions, led by Wayne. If you haven't had the opportunity to sit in on one of these I'd recommend it. This is a series of talks (including video) about how we perceive Jesus, how the conservative side of (Western) Christianity has portrayed Jesus and how the picture has changed over the ages. It has a lot of surprising stuff in it, like for instance: Did You know that Jesus never used the expression "original sin"? Neither did Paul or Peter for that matter. In fact, the notion never came up until the church married the Roman Empire (under Constantine) and a fellow named Augustine of Hippo introduced the idea. Also: the Eastern traditions (Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, etc) don't include "original sin" as part of their belief system. Hmm...

The next hot item coming up is the training of new church officers. I have agreed with Wayne to lead this on three consecutive Sunday mornings prior to the installation and ordination Sunday. The schedule looks like this:

Sunday, January 28, February 4 and February 11: 9pm – Polity class (church officer training).

Sunday, February 18: Ordination and installation.

Now, this year I'm going to do it a little differently; No books or homework. I am not going to be trying to divide it into "modules". We're going to grab it by the horns and burn straight through.

I will try and develop some sexy-looking new handouts for the class (to replace my old, tired ones).

Since we're not requiring anyone to buy the Tucker and Gray book, this class is open to anyone who wants to sit in.

It'll be different. It'll be fun (I hope).

Finally: We're looking at April 18 for the retreat weekend. We haven't planned a topic yet but we're open for input. More info for you as it comes in.

With Love,

Bill Fischer, C.E.

Good Health To All~

What is HPV vaccine for and what does it stand for? I have received a few questions on this that I even needed to look into it. HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus which is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the USA and HPV infections don't cause any symptoms and go away on their own. But HPV is spread through sexual contact and it can cause cervical cancer in woman. HPV is also associated with several less common types of cancer in men and women. It can also cause genital warts and warts in the upper respiratory tract. More the 50% of sexually active me and women are infected with HPV in their lives. There is no treatment for HPV infection, but the conditions it causes can be treated.

That is why girls should get the vaccine before they are sexually active. HPV vaccine is an inactivated (on live) vaccine which protects against 4 major types of HPV The protection from this vaccine is expected to be long lasting. But vaccinated women still need cervical cancer screening because the vaccine does not protect against all HPV types that cause cervical cancer. So it is important for women in getting their pap and pelvic's done as their doctors inform them too, This test does check for this.

Who and what age should get this vaccine? Start at the age 11 12 years old: highly recommended. Doctors may give it to girls as young as 9 years old. It is given in 3-doses 1 now, 2nd 2 months after first dose and 3rd 6 months after 1st dose. For girls who have not received it 13-26 it is also recommended along getting all 3 boosters. If the girls have received all three boosters, no further boosters are recommended at this time. It is preferred that the girls received it before they are sexual active and highly recommended that after they are sexual active the do the pap and pelvic exam with their year physical.

Kathryn L. Sathre LPN

Worship During Lent



Ash Wednesday will begin our season of reflection with a service of a simple supper, readings, and communion.

Come, Wednesday, February 21, 6:00 p.m.

Bring Your Friends and Family to the

Ham and Cherry Pie Dinner

Tuesday, February 13th



Served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Nokomis Hall
\$9.00 adults, \$5.00 children 2-12

Volunteer to help Monday (preparation) or
Tuesday (serving/cleanup) by signing up in the
library, calling the church office (612.721.4463)
or talking to Gary Johnson.

Treasurer's Report - December:

Unrestricted income (includes transfer
from Endowment Fund):

\$ 28,085.25

Designated income: **1,553.00**

Total Income: \$29,638.25

Unrestricted income to meet Annual
Budget (month) 11,333.25

Nov. actual expenses: \$16,020.19

Per capita for 2007:

To support the ongoing work of the
Presbytery, Synod and General
Assembly of the PC(USA) - staff,
supplies and tangible assets - the
2007 per capita assessment is:

\$28.14 per active member

Please remember this as you begin
your financial stewardship of the
church in the new year.



*A Milestone to Celebrate!
Mildred Horns is 100 years old this
month.*

Thank you~

To those who have been asked, accepted, and elected to serve as officers for the coming year. The life and health of the ministry of LNPC is dependent on the faithful, prayerful leadership of each member of Session and Deacons. We look forward to 2007 with anticipation!

News from the Presbytery ~

Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen, Pastor at Westminster in Minneapolis, is one of a group of clergy which is traveling in the Holy Land. Among them are a Muslim Imam; Unitarian; Catholic, Episcopalian and Protestant Christians; and a Jewish Rabbi. Father O'Connell of the Basilica wrote, on the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Let justice roll like a river." Dr. King preached and Pope John Paul II reminded us that without justice you can have no peace. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not for the twelve of us pilgrim pastors to solve but I think it compels us to come back and be even more committed to drawing out the common themes of God's Justice, God's Compassion, and God's Peace from the Qu'ran and the Hebrew and Christian scriptures in our preaching, teaching, and writing."

Wrote Rev. Hart-Andersen, "If we are to live faithfully in this religiously plural world, we will need to own our past, even as we work to find ways to live together into the future that are free of religiously motivated persecution and violence.

To do so, we will need to get up and go, either metaphorically or literally, to a place where we encounter God in a new way."

Let us each commit to one another, to our neighbors, and our community, to "get up and go!"



WHAT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY JANUARY 2007

Of the Presbytery meetings I go to all year long, the January one is usually my favorite. This is for two reasons: First, it is held on a Saturday rather than Tuesday and I usually have no problem getting there in time for the whole thing. On Saturday it starts around 9-9:30 am and I'm not juggling it against a work schedule. On Tuesdays it begins at 5PM in the evening, an hour after I get out of work, which would be no problem if it is held in Delano or Long Lake, but if it's in Sandstone or Albert Lea then it's not easy getting there right away. Second, the January meeting is where we get the formal proposals from General Assembly to vote yea or nay on constitutional changes (to the Book of Order).

This year there were 9 overtures submitted but nothing really exciting. They were primarily a re-write of language in an attempt to streamline the workings between presbyteries and synods, lay pastors and presbyteries, etc. Of the nine submitted only one was rejected which had to do with (if I understand the legalese) the "double role" capacity of synod members and synod moderators. I think I got that right.

Beyond that, we approved candidacy for an inquirer which means that a person who has completed (or is very, very close to completion) their presbytery requirements for seminary training, etc. is now allowed to salt their resumé on the system to get a call from a congregation or other facility.

We also approved two candidates for ordination which means that they have already received calls to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

I'm thinking we could get asked in the next year about taking on an intern at LNPC but we'll see.

The one bit of fun I had was when one of the candidates was being grilled – er – "examined" by the assembly on their statement of motivation (kind of like a statement of faith – but not exactly) and I went to the microphone and asked them about "infallibility" in the scriptures. Just FYI – in that august body known as Presbytery the "I" word (infallibility) will almost always bring someone to the microphone to pry a little further and ensure that we're not sending a young Fred Phelps out into the world.

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By the way, the candidate acquitted himself pretty well: My question: "What do you find 'infallible' about scripture?" His answer was (I'm paraphrasing) that he found the process of discernment in the church body, when going through scripture, to be an ultimately infallible process of seeking the truth.

Good answer. I though I'd really painted him into a corner.

See You at Church.

Bill Fischer

" It is not over, this birthing. There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars. When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God, that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem, that's just the time that God will be born in a place we can't imagine and won't believe. Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes listening ... Always listening for the angel words."

KNEELING IN BETHLEHEM
Ann Weems

**Synod of Lakes and Prairies -
What is it?**

'Synod' is a part of the governing/support structure of the Presbyterian Church. Staff of the local synod serve as

resource for 16 presbyteries in the Midwest. They provide direct support for Clearwater Forest and other retreat centers and seven Presbyterian colleges. The Synod staff provides support to member presbyteries in communication, finance, leadership development, and racial-ethnic ministries.



Synod also presents "Synod School" each summer, offering courses in art and

music, as well as spiritual growth and Bible studies. This year's program, "Five Smooth Stones: Biblical Themes for Life & Ministry" will be held July 22-27 at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. *Brochures in the office and library!!*

"It was like an elderhostel in a loving, Christian environment."

"I didn't know Presbyterians could gather together and have fun!"