



# THE CURRENT WORD

LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

January 2007

## BLESSED NEW YEAR ---

We have been blessed and touched by God in many ways  
The many reassurances through others  
The witness of Scriptures and testimonies to God's love  
The privileges of serving and witnessing

In so many ways God touches our lives  
and leads us into New Year

So we wonder  
and pause in awe  
at the grace which has been  
poured out through Jesus the Christ.

We look at Year past 2006  
quickly gone  
and give thanks  
for love and hope given  
for serving and giving  
for all touches of the Holy shared.

We look Year future 2007  
to be given  
in love and hope to be given  
in trust for us to serve and give  
for all touches of the Holy shared.

This is our Blessed New Year  
all through the love and grace of Christ.

~Wayne

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)

**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.

## The View From CE

By Bill Fischer

I remember that Merle Strobehn (our former interim, just before we called Lou) would always stop people when he heard them mention the “three wise men”:

“!?What?” he would ask, “How many wise men were there?” To which the speaker would insist that it was three. “Mmm...” Merle would intone, with a twinkle in his eye... “and just where does it say that?”.

You can guess the rest: The person under the lights would mumble something about the Bible, and yes, the Bible, in fact mentions this about how many “wise men” visited the young Jesus: Zip. Nada. Bupkus. Nothing.

So, we really don’t have a clue about how many of these guys (some traditions actually have at least one woman in that mix) there really were. We know that there were three gifts – but did one guy go to Wal-Mart and get three, or did each bring one, or did each of three guys bring one gift and the other six wise men bring nothing; or maybe the Bible didn’t think it was important to mention the bicycle or gift certificate to Denny’s that the other seven wise men gave.

We really don’t know and neither does Jerry Falwell.

Or did you know that the original text (in Luke) mentions that there was no room in the *kataluma*? That means “Motor Inn”, right? Wrong. Actually, it’s more like a “guest room” (read: “attic”) where the host family had already put up Uncle Bernie and Aunt Gladys and besides Mary was staring labor contractions in the face so they (the hosts – Mary’s relatives, probably) were making a decision to: 1) Not make her climb stairs and 2) keep her and the coming babe in a warm place (the “manger” troughs at the warm end of the house).

Bear this in mind: King James II of England probably spoke lousy Greek.

But if you had been sitting in on Adult Ed for the past month you would have found out all of these neat things. If you missed it – maybe next year.

Now: In January, Pastor Wayne has agreed to lead a discussion on whether the religious right have “hijacked” Jesus from us. This will run most of the month, beginning on the first. As some of you know I have spent about 15-20 years studying this

phenomenon called the “religious right” and what they’ve tried to do to our denomination and have a few opinions of my own but will reserve them for the class.

This should be a fascinating look at conservative Christianity in American society and includes, I believe, some tapes/cd’s etc. as well as our own discussions. Coffee is free during class. It’s 9AM on Sunday before the service. See you there.

*With Love – Bill.*



"Pontius' Puddle" from [www.pontius.com](http://www.pontius.com)  
(..the goal is not to crush systems, but firm up the foundations!)

*From the Peacemaking Committee of the Presbyterian Church (USA):*

*"See, I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people." (Luke2:10)*

*While in the fields, Shepherds are terrified by the light of an angel. And then they hear the voice say, "Don't be afraid. The good, joyful news is for all the people." Joy to the world!*

Cesar Chavez said, "Jesus' life and words are a challenge at the same time that they are Good News. They are a challenge to those of us who are poor and oppressed. By His life He is calling us to give ourselves to the other, to sacrifice for those who suffer, to share our lives with our brothers and sisters who are also oppressed. He is calling us to 'hunger and thirst after justice' in the same way that we hunger and thirst after food and water: that is, by putting our yearning into practice."....

We pray, God, for your help in tearing down the borders we have built around our own hearts, that we may see you in each person, and that we may learn to love and welcome each of your children as members of one people, one world, one God.

*Rev. Jim Boler, Associate Pastor Sanibel Island UCC  
and Board Member of Interfaith Action*

## **ENVISIONING A NEW BEGINNING...**

The "between time" of an interim pastorate is a time of reflection and looking ahead.

*Who are we? Why are we? Who are our neighbors? What is God's mission and purpose for this congregation?*

Honestly seeking guidance, if not answers, to these questions will help move Lake Nokomis Presbyterian into our future.

To help us navigate this journey, Session has chosen to use a process developed by the Percept Group, a national demographic research company, "ReVision." (more information at <http://www.perceptnet.com>) The process uses both neighborhood dynamics, demographics and preferences, and small group conversation within our congregation to guide us in identifying our connecting points and planning for our future.

A pastor of our presbytery shared her (four-time) experience with the process with the Session, as did the leader of the process at Peace Presbyterian Church in St. Louis Park. Both spoke to the challenges and benefits, and enthusiastically recommended its use. We begin our journey in January!

*How do we begin?* The first piece of the puzzle is a self-assessment, gathered through a 30-minute written survey of the congregation. We will be doing this together during the Annual Meeting, after church on January 21<sup>st</sup>. After a Percept analysis of those surveys, and also of the area we define as "our neighborhood," we will begin a series of eight gatherings, in small groups, which we anticipate holding during Lent. Conversations will be guided to focus us on our call as a congregation - to seek God's guidance with a foundation of knowledge.

*Dates to save:* First and foremost, **Sunday, January 28th**, the Annual Meeting following worship. A more detailed presentation of the process and timeline will be made.

**Eight days during Lent** - small groups will meet at various times to enable as many as possible to join in the conversations at times that are convenient.

*Questions?* Ask any Session member (or Clerk, or Pastor) - Joyce, Gary, Sue, Bill, Terry, Alisa, Dennis or Wayne. Ask as much and as often as you need!

## **ON THE JOURNEY, TOGETHER.....**

### Treasurer's Report - November:

Unrestricted income (includes transfer from Endowment Fund): **\$ 10,076.20**  
Designated income: **89.00**

**Total Income: \$10,165.20**

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

**Nov. actual expenses: \$10,021.02**

### 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.



Lake Nokomis Presbyterian has a long history of meal service with Simpson Housing Services Men's Shelter. In addition to continuing that (one time) this year, we have chosen to serve meals at the smaller Women's Shelter. Meals there serve up to 25 single women and need to be prepared off-site and served on-site by no more than five people. In addition to being a ministry of the congregation, this could also develop into a family ministry. This year's serving dates are:

**Sunday, January 28 - Women's Shelter**  
**Sunday, April 29 - Women's Shelter**  
**Sunday, September 16 - Men's Shelter**

If you have any questions, please talk with Sue Goodspeed.

*"We're all in the same boat, just with different oars. Some have lost a job or got sick. Some have been the victim of violence. No matter what, we all need to be pulling together and helping each other."*

*Clemme is a guest at the Simpson Women's Shelter. She is currently experiencing homelessness.*

## A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

*Donde la verdad y la paz viven;  
Donde la gente se apoyan;  
Donde la justicia toma la raiz,  
Cristo nace, Cristo nace, Cristo nace alli.*

*Where truth and peace live;  
Where people support one another;  
Where justice puts forth roots;  
Christ is born, Christ is born, There Christ is born.*

*Rev. Noelle Damico,  
Associate for Fair Food, PC (U.S.A.)*



### Did you know...

The PC(USA) has a United Nations office?

They "help equip Christians for discipleship by training them to put their faith into action in the global arena... [bearing] witness to Jesus Christ by advocating the concerns of PCUSA General Assembly to the United Nations." The "office enables the PCUSA to have a voice in shaping a more peaceful and just world."

Learn more at <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/un/index.htm>

### PTCA Congregational Spotlight on: Church of All Nations - Columbia Heights -

Church of All Nations (CAN) is a new church/redevelopment project of the presbytery. Initially sharing facilities with the Korean Church in Brooklyn Park, they have recently merged with the Shiloh-Bethany/Grace Church on Silver Lake congregation. Led by Revs. Jin Kim and Ken Ribe, they recently were awarded a Walton Award, a \$50,000 prize for "outstanding new church development" awarded by the PCUSA.

From their website (<http://www.cando.org>): Wisdom from the Bible and Africa on **Unit:y**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. -1 Cor. 12:12

*When minds are one, what is far comes near. –Swahili, East Africa*

*Those who want to go fast, go alone. Those who want to go far, go together. –Kenya*